THURSDAY
August 31, 2023

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UNANIMOUS MOVE

**LS Speaker revokes Adhir's suspension**

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AT THE HELM

**Ajit Pawar to steer GoM on GST reforms**

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***In India, 74% can't afford a healthy diet***

*Low income, not food prices, the cause: report*

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BACK FROM BAKU

**Pragg arrives to a rousing reception**

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NEARBY

## Gruha Lakshmi scheme launched

MYSURU
A huge crowd gathered to witness the launch of the Congress government's flagship Gruha Lakshmi scheme, which envisages a payment of ₹2,000 every month to women head of families, in Mysuru on Wednesday. » PAGE 6

## Kumaraswamy hospitalised

BENGALURU
JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy has been hospitalised in Bengaluru after he complained of weakness and discomfort in the limbs.

» PAGE 6

# Karnataka starts releasing water on CWMA directives

Cumulative outflow from Krishnaraja Sagar and Kabini reservoirs pegged at around 6,398 cusecs; Karnataka farmers launch protest against water release to T.N. citing drought in the Cauvery basin

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

In compliance with the directives of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), Karnataka has begun releasing water from its reservoirs to Tamil Nadu.

The outflow from the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir in Mandya district into the Cauvery was at the rate of 4,398 cusecs (cubic feet per second) against an inflow of 2,300 cusecs on Wednesday morning.

The rate of outflow was 2,292 cusecs at 8 p.m. on Tuesday but the outflow was stepped up from around 11 p.m.

The outflow from the Kabini reservoir in Mysuru district was at the rate of 2,000 cusecs as on 8 a.m. on Wednesday and the cumulative outflow from both the reservoirs will be around 6,398 cusecs.

**Lifeline:** A woman collecting water from the Cauvery near Mettur in Salem district of Tamil Nadu. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

By Wednesday evening, the outflow from the KRS alone was further increased to 7,329 cusecs.

The CWMA on Tuesday directed the State to ensure 5,000 cusecs of water at Billigundulu on the inter-State boundary every day up to September 12.

Though Karnataka had strongly put forth its inability to release water, the CWMA upheld the recommendations made by the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee to release 5,000 cusecs. Various farmers organisations had threatened to launch an agitation if water is released.

The State government's decision to comply with the CWMA directives is also seen as an attempt to avoid strictures from the Supreme Court, which is scheduled to hear the issue during the week.

Later in the day, farmers belonging to the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) launched a protest near the KRS against the government move. Karnataka and the core areas of the Cauvery basin were facing severe drought and the current storage was barely enough to meet the drinking water needs of the region, the KRRS said.

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EDITORIAL
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# China doubles down on new map, tells India to keep calm and not to 'over-interpret'

Ananth Krishnan

China on Wednesday defended issuing a new "standard map" for 2023 that India has protested, saying it was "a routine practice" and asking New Delhi to "refrain from over-interpreting" it.

India on Tuesday lodged a "strong protest" over the new map that was released on Monday, and showed within China's borders all of the Indian State of Arunachal Pradesh, Aksai Chin, as well as the entire South China Sea.

> It is a routine practice for China to exercise sovereignty in accordance with the law... We hope the relevant side can stay objective and calm
>
> WANG WENBIN
> Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson

### Irritant in ties

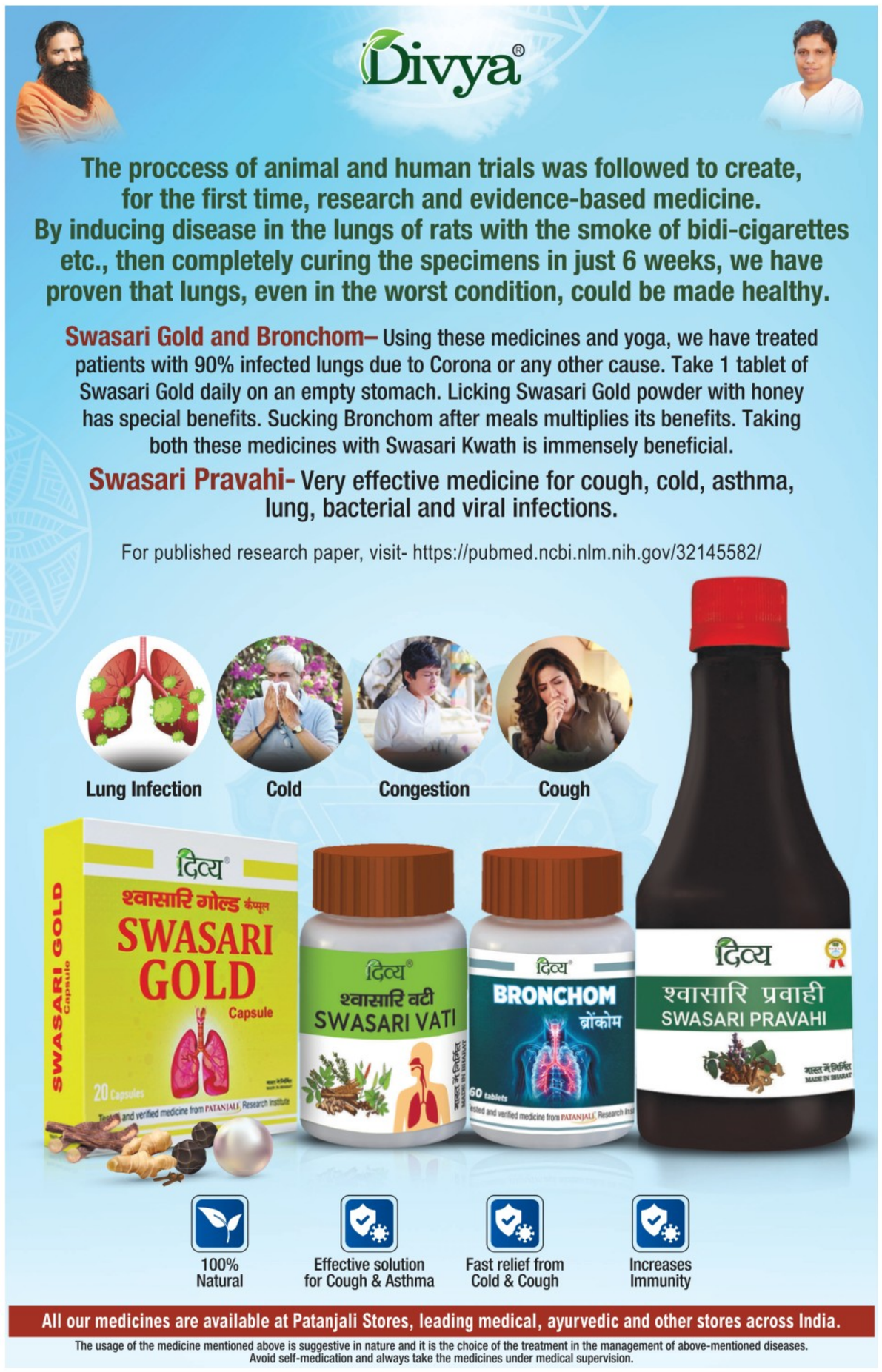
While these territories were also displayed in previous Chinese maps, the new publication was seen by New Delhi as an unnecessary move that will only further complicate already tense relations, particularly over the border issue.

While China on Wednesday downplayed the move, Beijing for its part had in 2019 strongly objected to India's map showing the newly created Union Territory of Ladakh, although New Delhi had underlined to Beijing then that the map had not changed India's external borders. It still drew a strong protest from Beijing at the time.

### 'Routine practice'

Asked about India's protest, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the map, put out by the Ministry of Natural Resources, was "routine". "It is a routine practice for China to exercise sovereignty in accordance with the law," he said. "We hope the relevant side can stay objective and calm, and refrain from over-interpreting."

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday said the government "is very clear about what is our territory" and "making absurd claims does not make other people's territories yours".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# Sports for Change — committed to lighting up children's lives

Under this project, students are introduced to multiple disciplines before they select the one they want to pursue and are given coaching through specialists; after competition at different levels, leading to a national meet, those who shine are picked for Excellence programme for higher training

**Kamesh Srinivasan**

Education is the key to a good life. It is well known that good education can be fast tracked through sports.

That is the philosophy of HCLTech's mission 'Sports for Change'.

Providing purpose apart from character and dignity to the lives of thousands of children across the country, HCLFoundation has evolved nicely, by tuning its approach along the way, to take care of young players from grassroots to excellence-matching world standards.

The vice-president of HCLTech, Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, taking care of the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) wing through the HCLFoundation, makes it clear that the organisation did not flinch at the growing demand, especially when talented players graduated from district, State, national to international levels. Even as it stayed focused on lighting up the lives of thousands of children by introducing them to sports, the budget constraints were overcome to collaborate with Abhinav Bindra Foundation and Sudeva, in an attempt to provide the extra thrust to players busy trying to touch global standards.

## Focus of the project

Dr. Nidhi effortlessly points out that the glamour of medals and glory was not exactly the focus of the project, but providing a positive change in the lives of the underprivileged children, preparing them to enjoy the challenges of life with equanimity and help them overcome the hurdles for a better career.

"In the early days in Chennai in 2016, as we went through slums, we said, 'let us play with them', when we started to collaborate with the children. Initially, it was carrom, ludo, chess, etc., basically indoor games. Then, running, basketball etc. were introduced. We were focused on community sports at the grassroots level. At the start, about 70% came bare feet and torn clothes. We sought the support of police to have safe space for the children in their own community to play kabaddi etc. We went to the parents, asking them to enrol the children in schools", said Dr. Nidhi, as we interacted with her for more than an hour at the HCLTech headquarters in Noida.

In fact, as she was engrossed on the subject, recalling the interesting passage of time and the growing project that touches young lives across 20 States, Dr. Nidhi silenced the alarm on her smartwatch that signalled the end of appointment, and continued talking about the satisfaction derived from the project, as we watched the videos of many inspiring stories.

It is a public-private partnership and takes along all the stakeholders towards a common goal of empowering the children, especially the girls, and driving them towards a bright future.

> Sports has a high rate of return. The influence of sports in children is very visible. These children grow into beautiful, confident persons with a vibrant personality
>
> **DR. NIDHI PUNDHIR**
> Vice-president, HCLTech

There is no better example than the case of Jerlin Anika, a student of Avvai Corporation School in Madurai, who was supported by HCLFoundation from 2019. She went on to win three gold medals in badminton in the Deaflympics that won her the Arjuna award from the President.

Needless to say, it is important for the head of the organisation to have the belief in the power of sports to sustain such a venture. From that perspective, the young Chairperson of HCLTech, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, is very enthusiastic and categorical about the reach and purpose of the project.

## Holistic change

"The programme, 'Sports for Change' helps our sports scholars undergo a holistic change as they grasp the essence of competition, the significance of victory and defeat, and the art of collaboration, and experience the depths of human emotion," stated Roshni.

Not everyone grows from grassroots to international acclaim. Sports offers many channels these days, and some of the players become coaches.

Basketball player Kajal got a degree, completed her NIS certification and became a qualified coach, enjoying her time teaching the game. In fact, 'Sports for Change' has trained more than 70 coaches.

The project is quite systematic. The students undergo a basic fitness test, and are introduced to multiple sports. They get the opportunity to select the sports they want to pursue. They are given coaching through specialists. There is competition at different levels, leading to a national meet. Those who shine are taken into the Excellence programme for higher training. Along the way, the athletes are assessed and provided alternate options. They are also guided to get into Universities, Railways and Banks.

"Sports has a high rate of return. The influence of sports in children is very visible. These children grow into beautiful, confident persons with a vibrant personality", said Dr. Nidhi.

Sports brings an overall awareness in the children. It not only empowers, but also makes them understand gender equality. In girls, it helps avoid early age.

A lot is being done for para athletes. More than 80 are supported to compete in sports. "We are working with organisations. We are trying for early identification of children with disabilities to provide them the early guidance and a career path", she said.

## Various partners

There are many partners of the project. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with many State governments to find and nurture talent.

The influence of sports on education and academics is very encouraging.

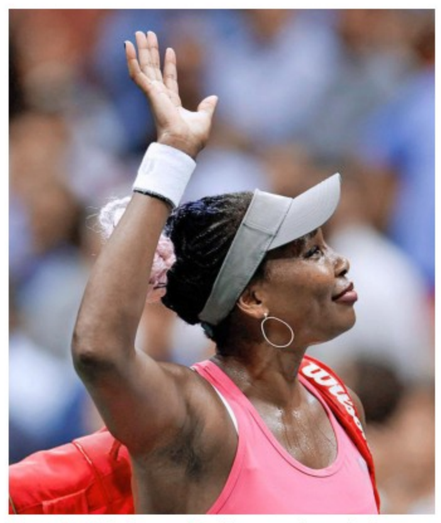
"About 99% perform well in their studies. Their grasp is high. In the process, they also learn to appreciate and lead a simple life. They gain the power of decision making, resilience and are very good teachers", she said.

In the overall process, there is no fear of the urge to excel, driving the children to wrong practices. There are medical tests to ensure a clean environment, with both the athletes and coaches understanding the reason for anti-doping. A conscious attempt is made to build strong characters that do not fall prey to temptations of temporary gains.

Despite expanding the budget to ₹50 crore and more, Dr. Nidhi accepts that "there is a lot more to do".

The need is high, and there is always a struggle to understand, "how and who", to extend the support.

"We are constantly evolving and improving methods to ensure the real needy people get the benefit", said Dr. Nidhi.



**Everybody's favourite:** Venus acknowledges the New York crowd's cheers. AFP

# *At 43, Venus still striving to succeed*

**Associated Press**
NEW YORK

There was a Williams sister out there in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Tuesday night, much to the delight of spectators who offered a standing ovation at the end of the match. Except this time it was Venus, not Serena, and there was no ceremony, no formal farewell – and, unlike a year ago, no indication of what the future might hold.

Her younger sister's playing days are done after one last hurrah at Flushing Meadows in 2022, but Venus is still competing, still striving, even if her age, 43, and a bum knee did her no favours on this muggy evening.

Venus was eliminated 6-1, 6-1 by Belgian qualifier Greet Minnen in the first round of the U.S. Open, her most lopsided loss in 100 career matches at the Grand Slam tournament where she won the trophy in 2000 and 2001.

The crowd that seemed thrilled just to get a chance to see Venus play in person sent her toward the locker room with applause and yells. She gave a quick wave and a smile as she walked off, her red racquet bag slung over her left shoulder.

**Beautiful feeling**

"It was really great to hear the support. I know the fans have been here for me forever, so that's fantastic to still have that support even more than ever," said Venus, the oldest player in the field. "So it's a beautiful thing, and I love the Open."

The first 21 times Venus entered the event, she went 21-0 in the first round. But this was her third consecutive opening-round loss since.

The 26-year-old Minnen – who threw an uppercut and raised her arms after winning – was born in August 1997, the month before Venus reached the U.S. Open final for the first time.

"For me, it was incredible to play a legend like her. I have huge respect," said Minnen, who is ranked 97th and entered the evening with a 4-12 career record in Grand Slam matches. "To be there at 43 years old, it's amazing really."

Venus owns seven Major championships, including five at Wimbledon. But she has lost in the first or second round in each of her past 12 Slam appearances, including bowing out at the All England Club in July after taking a tumble in her opening match.

Various injuries have limited her to 10 matches this season – she is 3-7 – after just four in all of 2022. The latest problem is with a knee that forced her to withdraw from a tune-up tournament in Cleveland a little more than a week ago and left her unsure of whether she would be able to play in New York.

But there she was.

"I have to really thank my doctors for helping me to get here. That in itself was a blessing," Venus said. "I love playing here. I really gave it my all today. I really played some great shots, but she had some incredible answers to that. I wish I could have been more prepared for that."

"She's always been an amazing player and she still is now. I knew I had to bring my 'A' game to beat her. Even though she's a bit older, she keeps hitting the ball very good."

For more than two decades, Venus and Serena traveled the world together, swapping the No. 1 ranking and the biggest trophies in their sport the way other siblings might share clothes or hobbies.

Now that Serena, who recently had her second baby, is done playing on tour, there are inevitable questions about how much longer Venus will compete. She has grown used to those queries and grown adept at deflecting them and did so again on Tuesday, unwilling to say for sure whether she will play again this season, let alone beyond.

Was it hard to be at Flushing Meadows without her sister?

"I mean, I was very much aware that Serena wouldn't be playing the tournament, so I think I was OK. I've had a chance to get used to that idea even before she retired," the elder Williams said. "I kind of knew that was coming."

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# Railways proposes extending trains on Bengaluru-KIA route to Chickballapur

Occupancy rates on trains between Bengaluru city and KIA railway station are below 1%, according to an SWR source

**Darshan Devaiah B.P.**
BENGALURU

Battling poor patronage for MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) trains operating between Bengaluru city and Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) railway station, South Western Railway (SWR) has proposed to extend the trains to Chickballapur to increase occupancy.

SWR sources told *The Hindu* that occupancy rates on trains to Bengaluru airport are below 1%. Hence, the SWR has proposed extending the trains to Chickballapur. "We are awaiting approval," a senior SWR official said.

In June this year, SWR had discontinued all MEMU train operations between Bengaluru and KIA railway station due to low occupancy and a significant shortage of crew members. Surprisingly, just 15 days later, the train services were reinstated, without any prior announcement.

A MEMU train arriving at Kempegowda International Airport halt station in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

The journey from Bengaluru to the airport takes approximately 90 minutes, and encompasses a 10-minute, 3.5-km free shuttle bus ride from KIA halt station to the airport. The ticket price is ₹35, which is the cheapest among all available modes of transport.

Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) built the station at an approximate cost of ₹3 crore. It was inaugurated on January 4, 2021. The SWR is running eight pairs of trains, including six pairs of MEMU trains, on the route for the benefit of air passengers and people working at the airport. However, in August, two trains from Bengaluru Cantonment railway station to KIA halt station were cancelled citing works on the line. These two trains are cancelled till September 9.

**Commuters happy**

Meanwhile, commuters are happy with SWR's proposal to extend the train route, but they emphasised the importance of prompt implementation. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Rajkumar Dugar, convener of Citizens for Citizens said: "We have been urging for many days now that the railways extend the airport train further so that the occupancy rate will improve. This is good news that railways has proposed to connect the train till Chickballapur. However, the SWR should implement the extension immediately."

Mr. Dugar also highlighted that the maintenance of these Memu trains by SWR has been inadequate. "The train toilets, seats, and the interior are not clean. The maintenance of the train should improve," he added.

A passenger Prasanth K expressed his concerns about that the punctuality of these trains. "The SWR should ensure that train services cater to both air passengers and airport employees. To enhance patronage, it's important for SWR to promote the services extensively at stations and the airport by displaying train schedules prominently at the airport's departure gate as a way to encourage more people to utilise these services," he said.

# International operations at KIA Terminal 2 postponed

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport's (KIA) Terminal 2 (T2) will not commence international operations on Thursday as scheduled earlier.

The airport operator, BIAL, on Wednesday morning announced that T2 will commence its international operations on August 31, with the first flight scheduled on August 31. However, by Wednesday night, BIAL said this had been postponed.

"The proposed shifting of International operations to Terminal 2 at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, on August 31, stands postponed. After consulting all regulatory authorities, BIAL will release a firm date for transition of international operations on Thursday," BIAL spokesperson said.

The spokesperson added that the last-minute decision was taken during the final preparedness review in order "to provide an optimal and seamless transition for passengers." "International operations will continue to remain in Terminal 1 until further notice. We request all International passengers to reach out to their respective airlines for further information," the spokesperson added. BIAL sources said that there would not be much of a delay in starting international flight operations from T2.

BIAL had said that passengers travelling on Singapore Airlines flight SQ508/SQ509 between Singapore and Bengaluru will be the first to experience the international zone of the new terminal and that IndiGo will be the first Indian carrier to start international operations in T2, with its flight 6E1167 to Colombo.

# Recruitment scam: Bosch files plaint with cyber police

**Shreyas H.S.**
BENGALURU

German engineering multinational Bosch has filed a complaint with the South East CEN police in Bengaluru about misuse of the company's name to run a fake online recruitment scam. An FIR was registered on August 28.

The company decided to knock on the doors of the cybercrime police after several individuals, who were promised jobs by online scamsters, approached them with enquiries about the work. According to the FIR, when several individuals approached the company between December 2022 and August 2023, executives realised that the company's name was being misused to possibly cheat job aspirants.

A cyber police officer said: "Not just Bosch, cyber police stations across Bengaluru have been receiving complaints about names of top companies being misused by criminals to cheat job aspirants. The scamsters are not based in Bengaluru. They use VPN to mask their tracks. These collect money from job aspirants in the guise of fees. Many people have lost lakhs of rupees in such frauds."

In many cases, the victims approach the police. But in this case, the company has filed a complaint, which is a good sign. The company flagging the fraud will create awareness, possibly stopping people from falling for fraudulent job offers, the officer added.

Satish Kumar, Security Head, Bosch, told *The Hindu:* "I filed a complaint with the police as a precautionary measure, as these cases would bring disrepute to the company. The company's name was being misused by fraudsters to dupe job aspirants. Over 10 individuals, who were falsely promised a job in Bosch, approached the company. There is every possibility that these scamsters are cheating job-seekers of money. It is my responsibility to bring this to the attention of the police."

# Bengaluru circle of PNB holds OTS campaign

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Punjab National Bank (PNB), Bengaluru Circle, recently conducted a one-time settlement (OTS) campaign and resolved over 400 non-performing assets accounts.

PNB executive director M. Paramasivam, who visited the city last week, conducted business review meetings of all branch/vertical heads and emphasised the importance of customer-centric approach and effective courteous service delivery. He highlighted the benefits of government schemes for social security.

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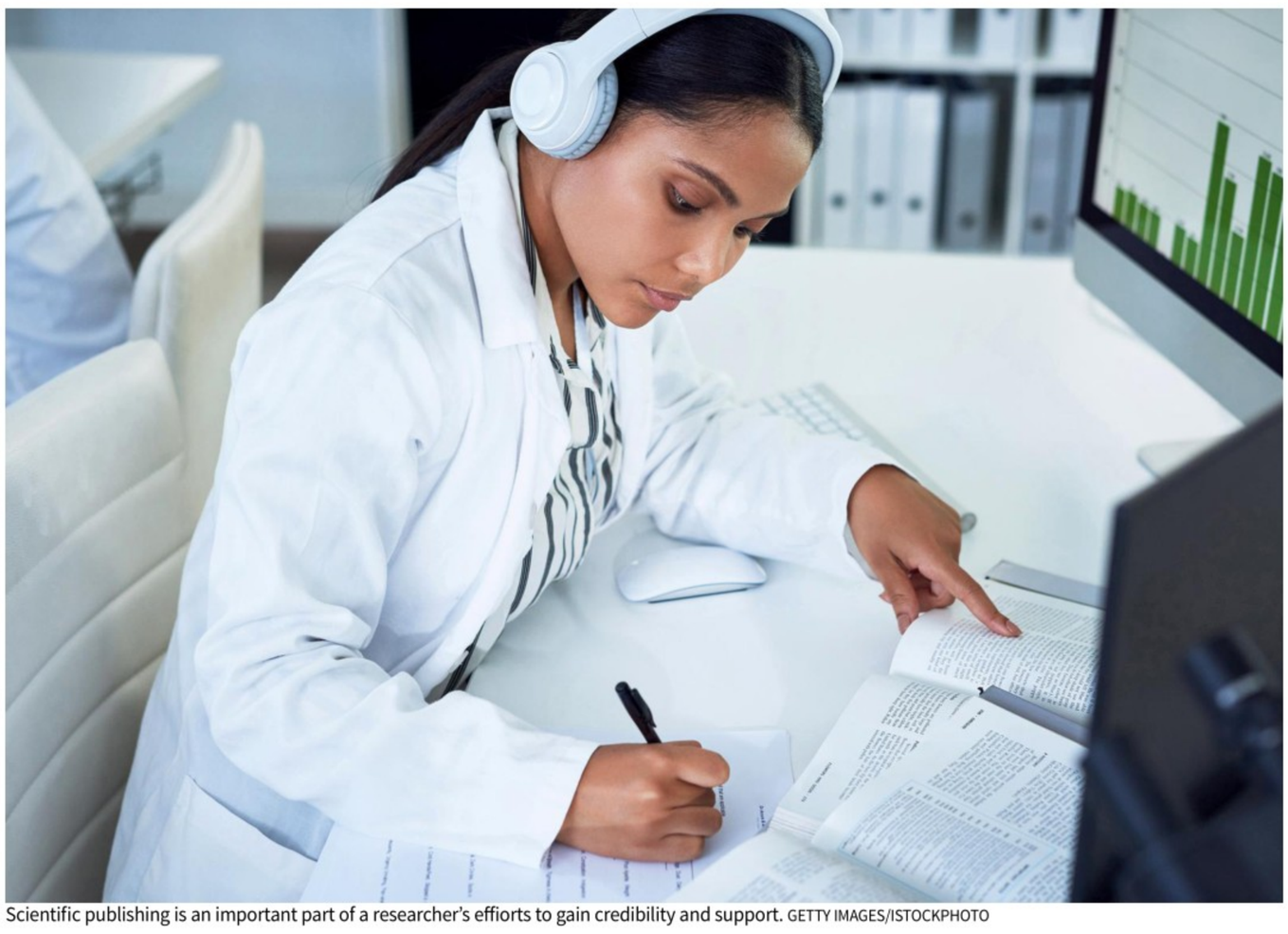
# Do we need radical alternatives to scientific publishing?

Many calls for open-access publishing continue to identify ways to make science more accessible by increasing the funds available to pay subscription fees or APCs. But doing so will only reinforce the current market model, which has been cornered by a few publishing houses

Shambhavi Naik



Scientific publishing is an important part of a researcher's effiorts to gain credibility and support. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Scientific publishing is a necessary component of scientists' efforts to establish a career in science for themselves. The process allows for scientists' peers to enrich new findings by reviewing papers, curate research from scientists across the world, and signals the credibility of some scientific work.

One important drawback of the extant publishing model worldwide is that it extracts a steep cost for this value addition - in the form of substantial subscription fees or substantial article processing charges (APCs). These models impose a considerable disadvantage on those operating with smaller research budgets, by limiting their ability to publish in 'good' journals and to access new research.

## Why radical options?

Many calls for open-access publishing continue to identify ways to make science more accessible by increasing the funds available to pay subscription fees or APCs. But doing so will only reinforce the current market model, which has been cornered by a few publishing houses, and slow innovation in the *way* we disseminate science.

It may be wiser to create new alternatives to publishing houses themselves rather than determine how to fund more open-access publishing within the existing system. For this to happen, science societies and academies could cooperate for a novel way to evaluate scientific work.

Currently, publishing houses coordinate three aspects of the publication process: peer-review, formatting, and publishing. Given recent technological advances, are publishing houses best-suited for this process?

Consider formatting, for example. Likely the simplest of these three activities, formatting is crucial to the way end-users consume the information in a scientific paper. But in this day and age, journals' standard format may actually be a constraint. Papers are typically required to have sections called 'abstract', 'introduction', 'methods', 'results', and 'discussion', in that order. There is an implicit expectation to write the paper in technical language readable only by other scholars working on the same topic.

Instead, perhaps a short video of the scientist performing her experiment may better communicate the impact of her work to her peers and the people at large. Or a comic strip to help non-experts get interested in the work. Or perhaps a slide deck, like the ones consultants use, can better entice funders.

## Where can research be hosted?

Currently, scientists are encouraged to share their findings in a more accessible manner after their paper is published. But there is also an opportunity cost to redesigning the content once the paper has been published.

Scientists, already steeped in the next steps of their research, would have to set aside time to create these additional resources. (Some institutes have started to include time and credits for science communication and outreach but such incentives aren't common.)

More importantly, in this age, the publishing part can be deputed back to scientists. Most researchers and research institutions have their own servers, which can host this content. Giving scientists the freedom to publish their peer-reviewed research in a format and platform of their own choosing could better help make their work more accessible.

If research institutions own the server and copyrights to their researchers' work, they could also maintain their work in different languages.This said, such a radical reimagination of how scientific work is published needs to reckon with an important issue: peer-review.

## Peer-review

Peer-review is journals' most important value-addition to the publishing enterprise. Journals have the manuscripts they receive reviewed by experts, typically on a voluntary basis. The peer-review process is supposed to help authors strengthen their research and the way they present it. It evaluates work for originality, contributions, and design. However, peer-review as it is currently practised has devolved into a gatekeeping exercise in which journal editors reject papers.

The approach that the journal *eLife* recently adopted recognises this critical difference: its editors no longer accept/reject a paper once it has been reviewed. Instead, they publish "reviewed preprints" plus an internal assessment and public reviews on its website. The assessment describes the work's contributions to a field and its design. So *eLife* has identified itself as a medium for enriching science, not gatekeeping.

Will other publishing houses follow suit? Journals don't appear to be budging from their well-paying business models (some publishing houses make up to 40% profit margin) to open up science for public consumption.

## What is the impact factor?

Will authors continue to publish in other journals? The current system incentivises publication in high-impact-factor journals. The impact factor (IF) of a journal - the average number of citations each of its papers receives every year across two years - has become critical to attract funding or employment. But in doing so, the IF does disservice to broader science.

First, its value is associated with how frequently papers from the journal get cited, and doesn't necessarily reflect how good a paper is. Papers in high-IF journals have also been accused of scientific fraud; some of these journals also have a higher rate of retractions.

Second, it doesn't account for the ease of doing research across laboratories. This rewards labs in countries with better research resources. But surely, from the perspective of an Indian employer with the existing funding constraints, the ability to work resourcefully should have more merit than having published in a coveted journal at exorbitant costs.

Third, the culmination of this process is that science remains behind paywalls, or even unpublished, as journals demand more experiments or those with certain results to deem a paper to be "publication worthy".

Fourth, scientists approach science with a view to publish in journals, so journals have acquired a 'licence' to dictate research design over simply pursuing good science. Negative experiments in particular are shunned, even if they can add to the pool of scientific knowledge.

## A way to measure research

What could be an alternative? Perhaps it is time for science academies to step into the science promotional work that they were mandated with. The three academies in India can agree on a research evaluation metric - novel contribution to the field, funds used (as a proxy for resourcefulness), research design - that peer-reviewers can use to rate submitted findings.

> Scientists approach science with a view to publish in journals, so journals have acquired a 'licence' to dictate research design over simply pursuing good science

Along with subjective feedback, reviewers can give an objective rating. Scientists can then have the option to publish their work as is or along with reviewer feedback and rating.

The peer-reviewed work can be used by indices such as Google Scholar or PubMed. Any funders/prospective employers can also use the evaluation metric to best gauge the scientist's credibility based on their research setting, and not their ability to publish in the journal of a certain stature.

Scientists can initially choose to send their papers to journals in addition to the academies, since publishing in a coveted journal also harbours a sense of prestige.

Technological advances in knowledge curation and dissemination should render publishing models that keep science locked up outdated.

The advent of large language models and tools for catching image fraud, even a basal peer-review could be eventually outsourced, reducing the burden on experts. The path to open science lies with our scientific institutions, and requires a radical move to break the monopoly of publishers.

*(Shambhavi Naik is a researcher at The Takshashila Institution.)*

Nuclear power plants are a clean alternative, but also produce dangerous waste. REUTERS

# *What to do with spent nuclear fuel?*

Arkatapa Basu

Japan has started releasing treated radioactive water from the beleaguered Fukushima nuclear power plant into the ocean, stirring up a question that scientists and governments have been struggling to answer for decades: how to manage nuclear waste?

Nuclear energy is one of many alternatives to carbon-based power on the path of climate change mitigation. Currently, 10% of the world's electricity comes from nuclear energy. Aiming for net-zero emissions, many countries, including the U.S., India, and China, are mulling a higher contribution from nuclear as a way to transition to clean energy.

However, using nuclear energy comes with its own challenges - one of the biggest being how the facility will store and dispose of nuclear waste in a safe, controlled manner.

**Options include storing spent fuel in pools until they cool and in dry casks and burying them in near-surface disposal facilities at ground level or below**

Experts are aware of many options on this front but they are all temporary. A more permanent solution is required because the waste can persist in a dangerous state for periods ranging from days to decades or more, depending on the isotope.

Temporary options include storing spent fuel in pools until they cool and in dry casks and burying them in near-surface disposal facilities at ground level or below. These facilities typically have a protective covering at least a few metres thick. The waste is placed in vaults and then backfilled with soil and clay. The volume is then covered with an impermeable material followed by topsoil.

These facilities are usually used for low-level and intermediate-level waste - i.e. which has such levels of radioactivity, typically coming from an operating plant.

High-level waste has few options; the most feasible is deep geological disposal, and Finland seems to be showing the way. A facility in this Scandinavian country will become the first to realise this option when the Onkalo repository opens in 2025.

The project started in 2000 and will use the Swedish KBS-3 concept, which proposes three layers of protection: waste placed in copper canisters, wrapped in bentonite clay, and buried more than 400 metres below ancient bedrock. The repository, built by Finnish company Posiva, will also employ measures called release barriers to keep the waste isolated from its surroundings.

Finland's long-term plan is to leave the waste undisturbed for 100 millennia. It will also study how the site might change and how the safety measures evolve. The facility has already tested the site to check if the tunnels where the waste is stored will be able to weather geological changes like an ice age or earthquakes.

Posiva expects the facility will need 100-120 years to become full.

## THE SCIENCE QUIZ

# Marking the birth anniversary of Ernest Rutherford

Sarang Pitalewad

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

**QUESTION 1**

In 1911, Earnest Rutherford performed the gold foil experiment to understand the structure of an atom. He did this along with a German physicist named Hans Geiger and one of Geiger's students, X. Name X.

**QUESTION 2**

On the basis of their observations, Rutherford, Geiger, and X concluded that an atom's positive charge and most of its mass were densely concentrated in a small region called the _____. Fill in the blank.

**QUESTION 3**

The researchers' calculations indicated that the volume occupied by the nucleus is negligibly small compared to the atom's total volume. The radius of the atom is about 10-billionths of a metre while that of the nucleus is _____.

**QUESTION 4**

In their experiment, the researchers bombarded a gold foil with radiation emitted by an isotope of which element? Rutherford chose this isotope because it was millions of times more radioactive than uranium.

**QUESTION 5**

In the experiment, which particles accounted for most of the alpha particles emitted by the radioactive source? From a different experiment conducted five years earlier, Rutherford knew these particles to have a charge of 2*e* (the basic electric charge) and atomic weight 4.

**Answers to August 29 quiz**:

1. Relationship between three states described in the zeroth law – **Ans: Thermal equilibrium**
2. Third entity in Rudolf Clausius's articulation of the first law – **Ans: Internal energy**
3. Heat won't spontaneously flow from colder to warmer body because of this entity – **Ans: Total entropy**
4. Reaching this state will take an infinite number of steps per the third law – **Ans: Absolute zero**
5. American poet who parodied the laws of thermodynamics – **Ans: Allen Ginsberg**

Visual: **Ludwig Boltzmann**

First contact: Shubhi Verma | Dishanta Adhikari | Ritu Pragya | Venkatesh Barnwal

Visual:This man is credited with discovering the electron as a particle in 1897. The gold foil experiment proved his model of the atom false. Name him. PUBLIC DOMAIN

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for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

# Locals to protest against illegal borewells near Whitefield

They plan to hold a protest today demanding an end to supply of water pumped from borewells in around the city as water levels in the village are depleting

**Shreyas H.S.**
BENGALURU

WATER WOES

High drama prevailed at Ramagondanahalli, a suburban pocket of Whitefield, on Tuesday evening after locals planned to stage a protest against illegal borewells and supply of water. Eventually, the matter was settled in a police station.

The locals, led by Jagadish, plan to hold a protest on Thursday demanding an end to supply of water pumped from borewells in around Bengaluru as water levels in the village are depleting. He alleged that the borewells were dug by people who are in the business of supplying water and the borewells are illegal as there is no permission from the local authorities. The area has approximately 25 borewells that yield about 200 tankers (capacity: 12,000 litres) of water every day. Mr. Jagadish told *The Hindu* that on Tuesday evening, the road leading to his home and that of others was blocked with bricks by borewell water suppliers. On being confronted, the borewell water supply businessmen picked a fight.

Ramagondanahalli has approximately 25 borewells that yield about 200 tankers of water every day. FILE PHOTO

He said one of the operators claimed to have been doing business for many years, and stopping supply will jeopardise his business. He also offered to dig borewells to provide water to the locals who are facing a shortage. Mr. Jagadish explained that most residents in his village are dependent on borewells in their homes. After water supply businesspersons began digging borewells and pumping water round-the-clock, the borewells in their homes dried up. The locals are now forced to pay ₹2,000-₹2,500 per tanker of water. "If this practice does not stop, there will no water left in the village to drink," he said. Another local claimed that the water supply mafia were enraged by the campaign against illegal borewells. "We were circulating pamphlets about the protest, but now, villagers are scared to participate in the demonstration," he said.

The matter reached the police station. Mr. Jagadish said the water supply businesspersons told the police that they will dig borewells and compensate the locals. "But the villagers will go ahead with the protest, as this is not a solution. Only 30% of the village has water connections. What this village needs is a permanent solution for drinking water," he added.

Srinivas Reddy of Bengaluru Navnirman Party said his party will stand in solidarity with the villagers as these borewells are illegal. The party will support the protest, and authorities should work out a permanent solution to end water issues.

Apollo HOSPITALS

# 40 YEARS OF BEING INDIA'S MOST TRUSTED HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

As Apollo Hospitals completes 40 years of its journey dedicated to providing the best care in the world, we are humbled by the love and trust placed in us by over 200 million people from India and 150 countries around the world.

When we began in 1983, Apollo was India's first corporate hospital. Today we are the world's largest integrated healthcare ecosystem delivering best in class clinical outcomes at 1/10th of the cost.

**We deliver world-class clinical outcomes in every corner of India**
At Apollo we believe that every life is priceless and have always put consumers at the centre of everything we do. This is why we invest significantly in adopting the most advanced technologies available across robotics, digitisation, 3D printing, genomics as well as molecular biology and artificial intelligence. This helps us deliver superior clinical outcomes with dramatically shorter recovery times so customers spend more time living their lives and less time in our hospitals.

Today Apollo is the world's largest transplant centre, India's biggest robotic surgery centre as well as one of the world's leading care providers across cardiology, neurosurgery, orthopaedics and more with outcomes that rival the best in the world.

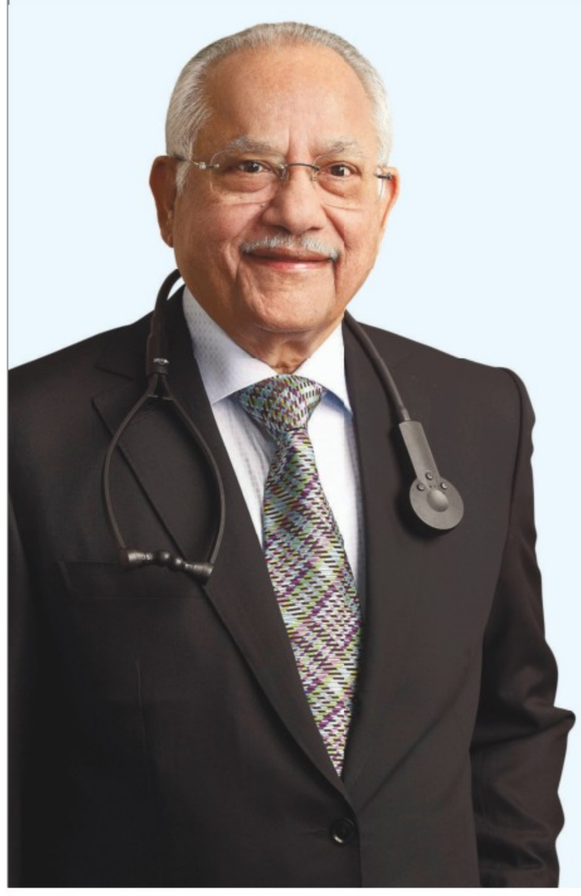
**We are the world's largest integrated healthcare network**
Our network spans the length and breadth of India with 70+ hospitals, 400 clinics, 700 telemedicine centres, 2000+ diagnostic centres, 5500+ pharmacies and our world class digital platform Apollo 24/7 all integrated and bringing the best care to every corner of India and we're to continuing to invest significantly to expand this network.

First, we're adding over 2000 beds to our existing 10,000. Second, we are expanding **Apollo Connect**, a technology platform to enable nursing homes across India to leverage Apollo's care, clinicians and our advanced infra such as eICU, second opinion and more. Third, we're further scaling up **Apollo 24/7**, our integrated Digital Health ecosystem to provide instant access to Apollo's care network to even more people from every corner of India. Already, over 25 million people have benefitted from this and our pharmacy network which delivers medicines to over 19,000 pin codes in India.

We are also expanding our network of ambulances ensuring availability in the shortest possible time. You can access it by just dialling **1066**. These are 'hospitals on wheels' equipped with advanced life support, highly skilled paramedics along with 5G connectivity to our hospital emergency response teams, ensuring treatment begins as soon as we reach you.

**Heal in India**
These efforts from Apollo, as well as from over 300 high quality hospitals across our country have cemented India's position as a fast growing medical value travel destination. I commend the entire industry for their relentless efforts and it fills my heart with pride as our nation's motto of 'HEAL IN INDIA' resonates with our mission and extends our caring touch to the world.

**Protecting India from the NCD menace**
As a young vibrant India takes up a leading role in the world, we must protect it from the menace of NCDs. Today our country is the diabetes capital of the world, millions suffer from hypertension and our youth are succumbing to heart diseases, mental illness, cancer and more. Left unchecked, by 2030 India's NCD burden will be nearly US$4 Trillion. This is one of the biggest roadblocks to India's development and all of us in the healthcare industry must act with urgency to avoid turning India's golden period into a generation of lost opportunity.



The best way to do this is to focus on preventive health. This is why we've created **Apollo ProHealth** - the world's most advanced preventive care program. It combines the knowledge of the best doctors, decades of medical research and the power of AI to identify your risk factors so you can proactively address them in time. Over 25 million people have already benefitted from this and I encourage everyone to be diligent about getting their health checks done regularly.

As I look ahead, I am optimistic about the future and I feel this is the beginning of the next era at Apollo. An era where we find incredible new ways to keep India healthy, so India can remain focused on doing what India does best - lead the world with the wisdom of our heritage and the energy and ambition of our youth. I encourage each of you to take care of your health, because your life is priceless.

Dr. Prathap C. Reddy
Chairman, Apollo

Apollo 24|7 · Apollo ProHealth · Apollo Health and Lifestyle Ltd. · 1066

# Text&Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### The number of people affected by floods in the State of Assam

**3.4** in lakh. As the flood situation worsened, the water level of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries maintained a rising trend. The death toll remains unchanged at 15. PTI

### Videos removed by YouTube from January to March in India

**1.9** in million. The videos were removed for violating YouTube's community guidelines, making it the highest removal across countries, according to a report by the video streaming platform. PTI

### The rise in foreign tourists to India from January to June

**106** in percentage. The number of foreign tourists who arrived in India during January-June 2023 stood at 43.8 lakh, compared with 21.24 lakh in the year-ago period, as per official sources. PTI

### Conjunctivitis cases reported in Himachal Pradesh in August

**38,521** The Mandi district reported the maximum number of cases at 6,084. The Lahaul and Spiti districts have been free from the disease so far. PTI

### The worth of weapons to be sent by the U.S. to Ukraine

**250** in $ million. As part of its ongoing support of Kyiv's counteroffensive against Russia, the U.S. is set to send more weapons and ammunition to Ukraine. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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# Understanding curbs on rice exports

Why did the government impose a 20% export duty on par-boiled rice till October 15? What can domestic consumers expect with this move? What has been the reaction of exporters? What is the extent of rice production and export in India?

EXPLAINER

M. Soundariya Preetha

**The story so far:**

In a move to check domestic rice prices and ensure domestic food security, the Indian government has prohibited the export of white rice, levied a 20% export duty on par-boiled rice till October 15, and permitted the export of Basmati rice for contracts with value of $1,200 a tonne or above. The export of broken rice has been prohibited since last September. However, it is allowed on the basis of permission granted by the government to other countries to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their government.

**What is the rice production estimate?**

According to the third Advanced Estimate of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, during the Rabi season 2022-2023, rice production was 13.8% less, at 158.95 lakh tonnes against 184.71 lakh tonnes during Rabi 2021-2022.

Kharif sowing data show that rice is sown on 384.05 lakh hectares this year as on August 25 compared with 367.83 lakh hectares during the same period last year. But, in States such as Tamil Nadu where the Samba crop sowing starts usually in August in the Cauvery delta area, a section of farmers says there will be delayed sowing due to a shortfall in the south west monsoon. Trade and rice millers say that new season crop arrivals will start after the first week of September and that El Nino effects are likely to impact arrivals to some extent. According to M. Sivanandan, secretary of the Tamil Nadu Rice Millers Association, paddy prices that were ₹27 a kg last year this month are at ₹33 a kg now.

**What about rice exports?**

India is the largest rice exporter globally with a 45% share in the world rice market. Overall rice exports in April-May of 2023 were 21.1% higher compared with the same period last financial year. In May alone, export of Basmati rice was 10.86% higher than its exports in May 2022. Non-Basmati rice shipments were 7.5% more, despite the government introducing a 20% export duty on white rice and prohibiting the export of broken rice last September.

The shipment of non-Basmati rice has been on the rise for the last three years and the export of Basmati rice in 2022-2023 was higher than the previous year, according to data available on the website of The All-India Rice Exporters' Association. The data shared by the government says that till August 17 this year, total rice exports (except broken rice) were 15% more at 7.3 million tonnes as against the 6.3 million tonnes during the corresponding period last year.

Trade sources add that Thailand expects nearly 25% lower production in 2023-2024; Myanmar has stopped raw rice exports; and the crop is said to be hit in Iraq and Iran as well.

**In high demand:** Farmers plant rice saplings in a paddy field on the outskirts of Amritsar on June 19. AFP

**What can Indian farmers expect?**

The government has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rice, and the paddy procured now by rice millers are at a price higher than the MSP. The prices will not decline for farmers. The restrictions on exports will ensure that there is no steep climb in rice prices in the market. When the bench mark price set by the government is high, the farmers will realise better prices, say trade sources. For domestic consumers, though there is a slight increase in rice prices at present, in the long run, availability is secured and prices are not expected to spiral. A clear situation on the arrivals and government policy will be known by mid-September.

**What are exporters saying?**

Prices of Indian par-boiled rice in the international market is competitive even with the levy of a 20% duty. Countries such as Indonesia, which are rice exporters, are looking at imports (raw rice) now. "International demand is very high," says a Tamil Nadu-based exporter.

When the global rice market is bullish, it will absorb volume in high prices too. The government should look at classifying rice as common rice and speciality rice for export policy decisions rather than classifying as Basmati and non-Basmati. As many as 12 varieties of rice have Geographical Indication (GI) recognition and these should be insulated from general market interventions, suggests trade policy consultant S. Chandrasekaran.

In the case of Basmati rice, the government should have permitted exports to continue or fixed the minimum value for exports at $900 a tonne, says Mohit Gupta, a Basmati rice exporter. "Exporters will not buy paddy if there is no demand. This will only affect the farmers," he says. "Since Indian rice quality and the consistency in supply is good, export demand for Indian rice went up. Basmati is a speciality rice and new crop arrivals will start soon and there is no need for restrictions".

### THE GIST

- The Indian government has prohibited the export of white rice, levied a 20% exporty duty on par-boiled rice till October 15, and permitted the export of Basmati rice for contracts with value of $1,200 a tonne or above.
- India is the largest rice exporter globally with a 45% share in the world rice market. Overall rice exports in April-May of 2023 were 21.1% higher compared with the same period last financial year.
- For domestic consumers, though there is a slight increase in rice prices, in the long run, availability is secured and prices are not expected to spiral.

# What are the changes to the process for sale of SIM cards?

What are the features of the citizen-centric portal Sanchar Saathi? What are the latest revisions in registering final point of sale by providers? How will these measures tackle cybercrime?

Saptaparno Ghosh

**The story so far:**

On August 17, seeking to further tackle the menace of cybercrimes and financial fraud, Union Minister for Telecommunications Ashwini Vaishnaw introduced two reforms. These entail a revision of norms for bulk procurement of SIM cards and registering the final point of sale (PoS) by the licensees (or providers). The reforms are meant to strengthen the citizen-centric portal Sanchar Saathi that was launched in May this year with the same objective.

**What is Sanchar Saathi?**

Broadly, the citizen-centric portal allows citizens to check the connections registered against their names, block mobile phones which are stolen or lost, report fraudulent or unrequired connections and verify the genuineness of a device (before a purchase) using the IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity).

Sanchar Saathi has, till date, analysed 114 crore active mobile connections. Of these, 66 lakh connections were flagged as suspicious, and 52 lakh connections were disconnected because they failed re-verification. Other than this, 66,000 WhatsApp accounts have been blocked and eight lakh bank/wallet accounts were frozen. Furthermore, as per the Department of Telecommunication, more than 300 FIRs have been filed against more than 1,700 dealers.

**What is the reform on PoS?**

From now on, it will be mandatory for franchisee, agents and distributors of SIM cards – all PoS – to be registered with the licensees or the telecom network operator. The onus would be on the operator to carry out an "indisputable" verification of the PoS. Importantly, police verification (of the dealer) is mandatory. Existing SIM card providers have been given 12 months to comply with the registration requirements.

If the PoS is found to be involved in any illegal activity, the agreement would be terminated with the entity being blacklisted for three years. It would also draw a penalty of ₹10 lakh. The DoT holds that these provisions would help in "identifying, blacklisting and eliminating rogue PoS, from the licensees' system and provide and encouragement to the upright PoS."

**What about bulk SIM cards?**

Broadly, the latest provisions would replace the system of 'bulk procurement' of SIM cards (by businesses, corporates or those meant for specific events) with a system of entailing 'business' connections – sizeable procurement by a registered business entity or enterprise. Elaborating on the premise, Mr. Vaishnaw observed that 20% of bulk-procured SIMs were misused. "In the guise of bulk connections, a lot of SIMs would be procured and then they would make automated calls using a SIM-box," he said. Mr. Vaishnaw added that another mechanism entailed using a certain number of SIMs from the bulk procurement to make a certain number of calls, destroying them and then using another batch.

The latest reforms would endeavour to address these issues. The new norms maintain that though businesses can procure any number of connections, it would be subject to completing KYC requirements for all end-users. In other words, the final user– the executive who would be holding the connection – would have to undergo the KYC procedure.

In order to prevent the misuse of printed Aadhaar, the provisions mandate that demographic details would be required by scanning the QR code of the printed Aadhaar. Subscribers would also have to undergo the entire KYC procedure for replacing their SIM; for a period of 24 hours, all outgoing and incoming SMS facilities would be barred.

Isha Suri, Research Lead at the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) observed that it must be examined if the provisions could be properly enforced till the last mile. "The smaller local stores too would be giving out the SIM cards. Thus, it would be essential to determine if they possess adequate infrastructure to carry out the entire process and more importantly have the necessary safeguards while dealing with such sensitive data", she said.

### THE GIST

- On August 17, Union Minister for Telecommunications Ashwini Vaishnaw introduced two reforms. These entail a revision of norms for bulk procurement of SIM cards and registering the final point of sale (PoS) by the licensees (or providers).
- It would be mandatory for franchisee, agents and distributors of SIM cards to be registered with the licensees or the telecom network operator. The police verification (of the dealer) is mandatory.
- Mr. Vaishnaw observed that 20% of bulk-procured SIMs were misused. "In the guise of bulk connections, a lot of SIMs would be procured and then they would make automated calls using a SIM-box," he said.

# State-of-the-art plant clinic, seed production centre inaugurated at ICAR-IIHR

## The clinic will help farmers and horticulturists with diagnostic services for their crops

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Imagine a clinic where the patients are not human, but plants. Among the new facilities inaugurated at the Indian Council of Agriculture Institute (ICAR) - Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) on Wednesday was a state-of-the-art plant health clinic, established on an estimated budget of ₹1.08 crore under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

The Centre for Mushroom Spawn Incubation and Capacity development was also inaugurated on Wednesday. JAHNAVI T.R.

### Diagnostic services

The clinic will help farmers and horticulturists with diagnostic services and management advisories for their crops. "We conduct isolation of pathogen here. When they bring their crop samples, we run tests and find out if the disease is viral, bacterial or fungal. If we do not get to know them immediately, then we isolate them," explained a scientist from IIHR.

He added that the disease information would then be passed on to the extension division from where it will be used to create awareness about the disease. "We issue advisories every 15 days, including information about common diseases in the particular crop at that particular time and if it will be useful for fruit, vegetable, and flower growers."

On an average, these advisories about new diseases and emerging diseases are currently being provided to 50 farmers in a month. With the clinic, IIHR plans to double this number. While the farmers are not charged in the clinic, private parties would have to pay.

A state-of-the-art seed production centre has also been set up on the premises of IIHR at a cost of ₹2.53 crore which was provided by HAL under its CSR mandate. This is the first CSR collaboration for ICAR, according to officials. While enhancing the reach and increasing the market share of ICAR-IIHR when it comes to seed varieties, the centre is also expected to increase the turnover of the seed unit from ₹8 crore per annum to ₹16 to ₹18 crore per annum in the next two to three years.

With two tonnes per hour capacity, the unit will consider parameters like purity, germination capacity, and moisture to enhance the quality of the seeds. Instead of using the traditional methods of dusting and slurry coating (which carried health hazards), the seeds here will be coated with polymer which adheres to the seed well.

A centre for spawn incubation and capacity development under RKVY (at an estimated budget of ₹1.14 crore) with focus areas including mushroom spawn production, mushroom cultivation, and small-scale industries associated with mushroom machinery and structures among others, was also inaugurated on Wednesday. A postgraduation dining centre, agri-business incubation centre, centre of excellence on Kamalam fruit, fruit plant mall (nursery), and Karnataka exotic fruit farmers association (KEFA) were also inaugurated by Himanshu Pathak, secretary, DARE, Government of India and DG, ICAR.

Speaking about the prominence of Horticulture crops, Mr. Pathak shared that horticulture production has exceeded food grain production in the country. "While food grain production is 330 million tonnes a year, horticulture crop production is 350 million tonnes per year," he said. He also said that ICAR-IIHR should now compete on the global level to become the best horticulture research centre in the world.

### Better marketing

Since Kamalam or dragonfruit came to Karnataka in 2015, the cultivation area of the fruit has reached 7,000 acres, said S.D. Babu Siddakumar, president, KEFA. He said while the production is around 10,000 tonnes per year in Karnataka, the consumption is less than 1%. "We need help with marketing and advertising for Kamalam fruit. The government should appoint a brand ambassador and provide publicity for the fruit," Mr. Siddakumar said.

To improve production of Kamalam for sustainable livelihood, and to totally substitute import with domestic cultivation, the Centre of Excellence on Kamalam fruit was inaugurated at ICAR-IIHR.

# Lab fire accident: BBMP chief engineer succumbs to injuries

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Shivakumar sustained burns in the accident at the quality control laboratory on August 12.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) chief engineer, Shivakumar, 45, who suffered injuries in the fire accident at the quality control laboratory on August 12, succumbed at a private hospital on Wednesday. Shivakumar was on ventilator support for management with a heart lung machine ECMO (Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation).

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar expressed his condolences. He said: "I am saddened by the death of Shivakumar. I visited him a few days ago and his condition was critical. I pray to the almighty to give strength to the family to bear the loss."

Shivakumar and junior engineer Jyoti, 26, were shifted to Apollo hospital, Seshadripuram, on August 21 from Victoria Hospital. While Shivakumar suffered 25% burns, Jyoti suffered 28% burns. Following the accident, all nine injured persons were admitted to the ICU in Trauma and Emergency Care Centre at Victoria Hospital. Shivakumar was diagnosed with Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said: "The government after deliberation will announce appropriate compensation package to the deceased."

BBMP chief engineer B.S. Prahlad sought additional time to submit the report on the fire accident. He was earlier directed to submit the report on Wednesday. Sources in the BBMP said he has sought 15 more days.

## INBRIEF

### Senior citizen hurt in accident over two months ago dies

A 63-year-old pedestrian who sustained injuries in a road accident at Kengeri satellite town main road, on June 10 succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday. The deceased, identified as Subramanian, was going for a morning walk at around 6.40 a.m. when a speeding car knocked him down. The severely injured Subramanian was admitted to NIMHANS where he succumbed on Wednesday. Based on the death memo report from the doctors, the Kengeri traffic police have registered a case of death due to negligence against the car driver for further investigations.

**E-paper edition**

**The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)**

In the issue dated August 31, we have an explainer on the weak southwest monsoon and what it means for Karnataka.

**Text & Context and Science**

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (August 31, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- Understanding curbs on rice exports
  **bit.ly/riceexports**
- Do we need a radical alternative to scientific publishing?
  **bit.ly/sciencepublishing**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

# Commercial Tax Dept. unearths GST bill scam

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Wing, south zone Bengaluru of Commercial Taxes Department, unearthed a fake GST bill operators' racket under which a syndicate was run to help companies in the service sector of manpower and labour supplies to avail fake Input Tax Credit and inflate the turnover artificially.

According to a release, this is the first-of-its-kind operation where fake invoice racket in the service sector has been busted. The probe revealed that around 30 fake entities were floated using the credentials of family members, relatives, friends, and other persons. While the transaction under the scanner involves a total turnover of ₹525 crore, the enforcement wing suspects a revenue loss of approximately ₹90 crore to the government, a release said.

The enforcement officers arrested two alleged masterminds Guru Prakash H.M. and Manjunathiah H.M. on Wednesday. More arrests are likely to follow.

The Department of Commercial Taxes of Karnataka is rigorously contemplating strong action against fake invoicing and tax evaders. Fake invoicing and tax evasion in GST can result in the arrest, prosecution, and imprisonment of those involved, added the release.

# Additional trips between Majestic and M.G. Road metro stations on weekdays

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) has announced additional trips between Nadaprabhu Kempegowda station, Majestic, and M.G. Road metro stations on weekdays.

In a release, BMRCL said, "To provide more convenience to commuters during morning peak hours between Majestic and M.G. Road metro stations, BMRCL will be operating additional trips on weekdays (Monday to Friday) with effect from September 1. These additional trips are being done on a trial basis on Purple Line."

The BMRCL has advised the passengers intending to travel beyond Mahatma Gandhi Road towards Baiyappanahalli to alight at Mahatma Gandhi Road metro station and board the subsequent train.

BMRCL officials said that they have decided to alleviate congestion during peak hours, as the daily ridership of Namma Metro has surpassed 6,67,000 passengers.

# TBM Vamika makes breakthrough

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Tunnel Boring Machine Vamika emerged at Langford Town underground metro station site in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Namma Metro's Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) 'Vamika' made a breakthrough on Wednesday after tunnelling 721 metres from Lakkasandra station to Langford Town underground metro station site.

According to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), the TBM started tunnelling from Lakkasandra station on April 21.

Earlier, the TBM completed tunnelling 613.2 metres between South Ramp and Dairy Circle underground station, and 743.4 metres between Dairy Circle station and Lakkasandra station.

With the latest breakthrough, total 17.62 km (out of 20.991 km) of underground tunnelling has been completed on the Reach 6 Line of Phase 2.

Under Phase 2, the BMRCL is building a tunnel network from Dairy Circle to Nagawara – a distance of 14 km.

A total of nine machines have been deployed to build the tunnel network. The tunnel goes via Brigade Road, M.G. Road, Shivajinagar, Cantonment, and Tannery Road before reaching Nagawara.

Out of nine TBMs deployed for tunnelling in Reach 6, six have completed tunnelling work.

# K.J. George to answer power queries on Sept. 4

**#THTALKSBENGALURU**

**You can log in to the live chat, or email your questions**

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Be it your doubts about the new Gruha Jyothi scheme or questions about power transmission, digital meters, or anything electricity-related, you can get them answered by K.J. George, Minister of Energy, on September 4, at 4 p.m., on #THTalksBengaluru.

Mr. George, whose political career spans over five decades, is a senior Congress leader as well as the five- time MLA of Sarvagnanagar Assembly constituency (earlier represented Bharathi Nagar Assembly constituency). He had also held several significant portfolios like Home Ministry, and Bengaluru Development and Town Planning in the Siddaramaiah cabinet in the past. He was also the Minister of Large and Medium Scale Industries in the H.D. Kumaraswamy-led Cabinet.

You can log in to the live chat, details of which will be out soon, or email your questions prior to the chat to thtalksbengaluru@thehindu.co.in.

**Timings**
**BENGALURU**

**THURSDAY, AUG. 31**
RISE 06:08 SET 18:31
RISE 19:00 SET 06:11

**FRIDAY, SEP. 01**
RISE 06:09 SET 18:31
RISE 19:45 SET 07:12

**SATURDAY, SEP. 02**
RISE 06:09 SET 18:30
RISE 20:28 SET 08:09

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 32 | 26 |
| Mysuru | 32 | 23 |
| Bengaluru | 31 | 23 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**33°C** Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**31°C** A slight warm and humid weather to prevail.Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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# Suspected thief shot dead in Bannerghatta forest area

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

**The incident occurred at 1.15 a.m. when patrolling staff heard tree-cutting noise in Kalkere forest range**

Forest patrolling staff shot dead a 38-year-old suspected sandalwood thief in Bannerghatta forest area in the wee hours of Wednesday. While the deceased Muniraju, a construction labourer, and resident of Natuvarahalli in Masti taluk of Kolar district, was killed, his associate managed to flee.

The incident occurred around 1.15 a.m. when patrolling staff on duty heard tree-cutting noise in Kalkere forest range. They followed the noise and found a gutka packet and an empty water bottle under a tree. Sensing that the thieves were around, the forest officials fired in the air to scare them, and later shot at the thieves when they reportedly tried to attack the patrolling staff.

Senior police officials and district administrative officials visited the spot. The police have stepped up search for the accused who fled the scene. They have recovered tree-cutting tools from the spot and have taken up a case for further investigations.

**Jharkhand Education Project Council**
**J.S.C.A Stadium Road, Jagannathpur, Sector -3,Dhurwa, Ranchi - 834004**
**Phone - 0651-2444502 Fax: 0651-2444506,E-mail: jepcranchi1@gmail.com**

**E- TENDER NOTICE**

**Selection of agency for establishment of Language Lab in 405 (80 School of Excellence and 325 Block level Adarsh Vidyalayas) under adarsh vidyalaya scheme and simultaneously training of approx. 3400 teachers**

**Bid No. ME/01/1121/2022/Part III/3395**

Jharkhand Education Project Council invites proposals through e-tender for selection of agency for establishment of Language Lab in 405 (80 School of Excellence and 325 Block level Adarsh Vidyalayas) under adarsh vidyalaya scheme and simultaneously training of approx. 3400 teachers. The complete tender documents can be seen on and downloaded from the websites **http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in** .The cost of tender documents is Rs. 11,800.00 (Eleven thousand eight hundred only). The lists of dates with regard to this Invitation for Bids are given below:

| Sl. | Details | Start Date | Time | End Date | Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Online availability of bid document | 30.08.2023 | 10.00 am | 21.09.2023 | 03.00 pm |
| 2 | Document Download | 30.08.2023 | 10.00 am | 21.09.2023 | 03.00 pm |
| 3 | Pre-Bid Meeting | 05.09.2023 | 03.00 pm | - | - |
| 4 | Online Bid Submission | 30.08.2023 | 10.00 am | 21.09.2023 | 03.00 pm |
| 5 | Submission of Original DD for Cost of Tender, BG of Bid security (EMD) (or any other documents as required related to EMD & Cost of Bid), and other relevant documents etc. | 21.09.2023 | 10.00 am | 22.09.2023 | 01.00 pm |
| 6 | Opening of Technical Bid | 22.09.2023 | 03.00 pm | - | - |
| 7 | Presentation (Technical evaluation based on documents and presentation) | Announced later | | | |
| 8 | Opening of Financial Bid & Presentation | Announced after the evaluation of technical bids | | | |

**(Kiran Kumari Pasi, I.A.S)**
**State Project Director**

**PR 305938 Jharkhand Education Project Council(23-24).D**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**To whomsoever it may concern**

The general public is hereby informed and notified that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned agricultural land measuring **10 guntas in Sy. No. 4/9 in Vaderahalli village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru**, more fully described in and referred to as the "Schedule Property" below from its current owner viz., **Sri. A.Ganesh**, son of Late. Anjinapa, aged about 42 years, residing at Bidalur, Devanhalli Taluk, Bangalore 562110.

If any person has any objection, claim, interest, dispute in respect of the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/ details of dispute/s within **Seven (7) days** from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of agricultural, unconverted land measuring 10 [Ten] Guntas in Sy. No. [Old] 4 [New] 4/9, situated at Vaderahalli village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District with the following boundaries:

**East by :-** Property belonging to Shri Shakeel Ahmed; **West by :-** Property belonging to Shri Dwaranath A. Jayaram; **North by :-** Road; **South by :-** Property belonging to Shri Krishnamurthy.

**Sd/- Law Chambers of Lakshmi Menon**
No. 33, First Floor, Crescent Road,
High Grounds, Bengaluru 560 001.
Ph: 080-22204412
Bengaluru, dated 30.08.2023

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**To whomsoever it may concern**

The general public is hereby informed and notified that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned agricultural land measuring **10 guntas in Sy. No. 4/4 in Vaderahalli village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru**, more fully described in and referred to as the "Schedule Property" below from its current owner viz., **Sri. Munianjinappa**, son of Late. Sri. Yallappa, aged about 57 years, residing at Neeleri village, 10th Ward, Kasaba Hobli, Devanhalli Taluk, Bangalore.

If any person has any objection, claim, interest, dispute in respect of the above intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/ details of dispute/s within **Seven (7) days** from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of agricultural, unconverted land measuring 10 [Ten] Guntas in Sy. No. [Old] 4/1 [New] 4/4, situated at Vaderahalli village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District with the following boundaries:

**East by :-** Land belonging to A. Ganesh in same Sy No.; **West by :-** Land Belonging to Munianjinappa; **North by :-** Road; **South by :-** Land belonging to Krishnamurthy.

**Sd/- Law Chambers of Lakshmi Menon**
No. 33, First Floor, Crescent Road,
High Grounds, Bengaluru 560 001.
Ph: 080-22204412
Bengaluru, dated 30.08.2023

**IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-75)**

**OS. No. 25932/2016**

**Between : S. Sunil and others ...Plaintiffs**
**A.V. Anjineyappa & others ...Defendants**

**ADDRESS FOR SERVICE TO DEFENDANTS**

**1. Gangadhar,** S/o late Venketappa aged about 53 years, **...Proposed Defendant No.1**

**2. Gangamma** D/o Late Venketappa Aged about 51 years ( 3rd son of the deceased Veeradasappa )

Both are residing at # 27 Gate Palaya, Abbigere MainRd, Jalahalli Post, Bangalore 560015. **...Proposed Defendant No.2**

**3. Anjineyappa,** S/o late Hanumathappa aged about 57 years, 4th son of the deceased Veeradasappa) **...Proposed Defendant No. 3**

**4. Venketesh,** S/o late Hanumathappa, Aged about 55 years **...Proposed Defendant No. 4**

**5. Shobha,** D/o late Hanumathappa Aged about 55 years

Proposed Defendant No. 3 to 5 are residing Near Rama Temple, K.G. Halli, Jalahalli West Post. **...Proposed Defendant No. 5**

**6. Lakshmma,** D/o late Veeradasappa and W/o Thimmaiah Both are died Their LRS Ashwathamma, Aged 64 years **...Proposed Defendant No. 6**

**7. T. Ashok,** Aged about 60 years, S/o. Thimmaiah Late **...Proposed Defendant No. 7**

Both are residing at # 884, Bahubali Nagar, Near HMT, Jalahalli West Post, Bangalore-15.

Whereas, the petitioner has filed the O.S. No. 25932/2016, against you proposed defendants in the Court of the City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bangalore. The above matter is posted **on 16.9.2023** and you are hereby directed to appear on that day at 11. A.M, through duly instructed by advocate or in person, failing which the matter will be heard and decided Ex-Parte.

All that piece and parcel of the suit schedule property bearing, Sy.No.21/4B measuring 1 acre 20 guntas situated at Abbikere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North TK under BBMP Limits bounded on: East by : Land belongs B.T. Krishnappa, West by: Land in Sy. 23/1, North by: F Bus stand Main RD, South by: Government Land.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this 28th day of August 2023 at Bengaluru.

**By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore.**

Address of Petitioner's counsel;
**Legal Escorts,** Advocates
No.28, 6th A Cross, Byralingappa Main Rd, Chikkasandra, Bangalore-560057.

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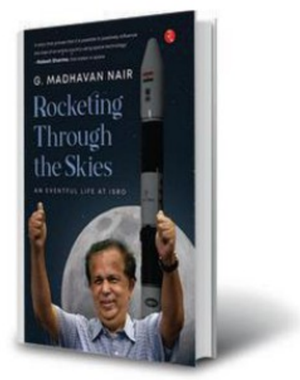
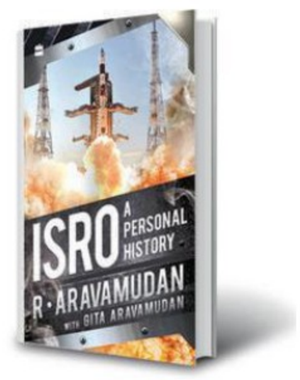
BIBLIOGRAPHY

**Fierce determination:** The scientists of ISRO react to the success of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission, at ISRO in Bengaluru, on August 26. PTI



# The sky is not the limit: probing the minds of scientists associated with ISRO

As the country continues to rejoice in the triumph of Chandrayaan-3's successful landing on the moon's south pole, we bring you books which explain what drives the Indian Space Research Organisation's spirit of innovation

**Soma Basu**

India erupted in joy when the Chandrayaan-3 lander with a rover inside touched down on the moon last week, marking a moment in history. While space explorations evoke tremendous interest, there is also a curiosity to unravel the sharpest minds of physicists, scientists, engineers and astronauts, who make such impossible missions possible.

Two new books by scientists who gave their time and life to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) are the right place to understand what goes on behind the scenes at the eminent space agency. *Rocketing Through the Skies: An Eventful Life at ISRO* (Rupa) is the story of G. Madhavan Nair, whose association with ISRO started from its early days and led him to helm the organisation. However, the book is not a plain chronicle of his life but a tribute to the spirit of innovation and exploration that drives the country's space technology.

It is set in pre-independent Kerala's Thumba village that became well-known after the establishment of the Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in 1962. The sleepless nights in Thumba, the morale-breaking failures, the guidance of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai and Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and the exhilaration of successes, Nair captures all these precious moments with the insight and candour of an insider. There are remarkable stories of determination, hard work and unwavering passion that reveal the philosophy of life and magic of teamwork that has enabled ISRO to make rapid strides over the decades.

The other one is Dr. R Chidambaram's *India Rising: Memoir of a Scientist* (Penguin). With co-author Dr. Suresh Gangotra, he talks about the design and execution of the peaceful nuclear explosion experiment at Pokhran in 1974 and how the nuclear programme got a boost when he led the team of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in designing nuclear devices and carrying out Pokhran-II tests in 1998 in cooperation with the Defence Research and Development Organisation. Through stories of his interactions with the scientific community and the political leadership, Dr. Chidambaram gives a fascinating account of key events in India's journey towards self-reliance in nuclear energy.

**Sarabhai's legacy**

There are several books which explain the where, why and how of India's foray into space technology.

The first name that obviously comes to mind is Sarabhai, the renaissance man of Indian science, who dreamed of communication satellites as tools of education for the masses at a time when a modest rocket programme seemed daring. *Vikram Sarabhai: A Life* (Penguin) by Amrita Shah is a vivid story of the man whose dreams continue to drive the country's ambitious space programme. Chandrayaan-3's lander takes its name from him.

Between 1947 and 1971, Sarabhai conducted research into cosmic rays, headed the Atomic Energy Commission; envisioned agricultural complexes serviced by atomic power; desalinated sea water; set up India's first textile research cooperative (ATIRA), the first market research organisation (ORG), and the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad. He was closely associated with influential figures of his time – from C.V. Raman and Jawaharlal Nehru to Bruno Rossi, Louis Kahn and John Rockefeller III, yet was at odds with powerful lobbies and fellow technologists in resisting India's move towards a nuclear explosion in the late 1960s. The intimate account is worth the read as Shah delves into the life and mind of a multi-faceted genius, who died at 52.

Another popular literature is *Vikram Sarabhai: India's Space Pioneer* by Padmanabh Joshi and Divya Arora (Natraj Publishers) that offers an endearing account of the man who put India on the world map with his unbounded interest in space, nuclear energy, architecture, industry, business, institution building, management development, art, music and theatre. The book is a poignant biography of a scientist, entrepreneur, educator and businessman rolled into one, whose legacy few can match.

**All the ISRO's men, and women**

*ISRO: A Personal History* (Harper Collins) by another ISRO pioneer and award-winning scientist, R. Aravamudan, is a gripping story of the people who built India's space research programme and how. Aravamudan served as the director of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota and the ISRO Satellite Centre, Bengaluru, and creditably tells the tale of an Indian organisation that defied international bans and embargos, worked with meagre resources, evolved its indigenous technology to grow into a major space power. Co-authored by his journalist wife Gita Aravamudan, the book underlines the made-in-India story of ISRO.

*My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man behind the Mangalyaan Mission* by K. Radhakrishnan and Nilanjan Routh (Penguin) is another fascinating read. A witness to the evolution of India's space programme since the era of Sarabhai, Radhakrishnan, an ISRO veteran, worked on the SLV-3 project, the country's first satellite launch vehicle; created efficient centres to use satellite data for the benefit of people and established a tsunami warning system. Packed with invaluable information and insights, the fascinating memoir is filled with several behind-the-scenes anecdotes of scientific achievements and failures.

Under Radhakrishnan's energetic leadership, ISRO successfully accomplished the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) and the acronym is perhaps providential as ISRO's success story is incomplete without its women scientists; particularly in the light of the fact that the space probe orbiting Mars (also called Mangalyaan) had women in 27% of its key executive positions.

Fighting naysayers and gender barriers, women scientists have assumed senior positions in ISRO's historic missions and path-breaking work over the years. In *ISRO's Magnificent Women and their Flying Machines* (Speaking Tiger), Minnie Vaid writes about their dedicated and tireless journey the world rarely hears about. The book leaves you in awe of their work that should be talked about more, because such uplifting books can inspire generations to come.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

# Late Show with David Letterman debuted on CBS on August 30, 1993. Here is a quiz on the talk show genre that originated in the United States

**Sindhu Nagaraj**

**QUESTION 1**

This political satire talk show premiered on September 8, 2015. After Letterman announced his intention to retire earlier in the month, this television host took over in the second iteration of the Late Show franchise. Name the host.

**QUESTION 2**

This is an American late-night and political satire talk show broadcast on ABC. The show began on January 26, 2003, replacing Politically Incorrect. Name the show.

**QUESTION 3**

In this show, the host extensively satirised Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a segment. The Indian streaming service which holds rights to the programme refused to stream the episode, leading to criticism by local viewers. What is the name of this show?

**QUESTION 4**

StarTalk is an American television talk show that airs weekly on National Geographic. Near the end of the episode, a short taped segment of this television presenter is often aired, giving his view on the episode's topic. Who hosts the show? Name the presenter who often makes an appearance on the show.

**QUESTION 5**

In this show, each episode is hosted by a celebrity guest, who usually delivers the opening monologue and performs in sketches with the cast. Name the show. What is the phrase that is usually said in the beginning of the show?

**Visual question:**
This was a famous episode featuring actor Marlon Brando. Which is the show he was on?

**Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. An event is held during the Onam season where unique snake boats compete for this trophy at the Punnamada Lake in Alleppey. **Ans: Nehru Trophy**
2. The traditional dance performed during Onam. **Ans: Kaikottikali**
3. During Onam, people create these intricate floral designs in front of their homes. **Ans: 'Pookalam' or 'Athapoo'**
4. The term used to refer to new Onam clothing. **Ans: Onakodi**
5. The name of the grand Onam feast. **Ans: Sadya**
Visual question: Identify this species of bird. **Ans: The 'onapakshi' or the migratory golden Yellow Oriole which lands up in Kerala towards the latter half of the monsoons**
**Early Birds:** Tania Neogi| Varghese Joseph| Sreelekshmi. G| Jesty Saira Varghese

FROM THE ARCHIVES

# *Know your English*

**K. Subrahmanian**

"Sir, Mr. B. Ravishankar, 54, Alamelumangapuram, Mylapore, Madras, wants to know which of the two is correct: (a) withdrawal form (b) withdrawl form. He has enclosed an Andhra Bank (Valasaravakkam, Madras) withdrawal form where it is printed: 'This is not a cheque. Passbook must accompany this withdrawl form'."

"It is 'withdrawal form' and not 'withdrawl form'. Occasionally the person who takes or gives the form speaks with a drawl. But that can't make it into a 'withdrawl' form. Do you know what 'withdrawal symptoms' are?"

"No, Sir."

"Withdrawal symptoms are the unpleasant mental or physical reactions you have when you stop taking the drug or drugs you were addicted to."

"Sir, Mr. Mudit Goel, Bidar-Mailoor Road and Mr. Subash Garg, 6-3-8. REC, Warangal, want to know the difference between 'warranty' and 'guarantee'."

"They mean the same. 'Warranty' is American and 'guarantee' is British. A warranty is a written or printed promise given to the buyer of an article that the manufacturer will repair any defects 'that may become apparent within a specified period'. In business circles in India, the word 'warranty' is more frequently used these days than before."

"Sir, Mr. Bhaskar S. Bhat and Mr. M. R. Shetty Chawh, HB Road, Yellapur, want to know whether in American English, 'cooker' has replaced 'cook'."

"No, not at all. A cook still continues to be a human being! You may have a cooker, but it is no use unless you have a cook. A cooker is what you use for cooking food by gas or electricity. One who bakes is a baker, one who makes is a maker, one who takes is a taker. But one who cooks is not a cooker. 'Cooker' has another meaning also. A cooker is 'any large sour apple used in cooking'. Cookers are apples that can't be eaten raw. They must be cooked and eaten."

"How about the word 'tailor', sir?"

"A tailor is one who makes a garment by cutting and sewing the given cloth. The word 'taille' came into Middle English from Old French 'Taillier'. The French word meant 'to cut, to limit'. The old meaning is retained in law. 'Tail' in law means 'limited ownership'. 'In tail' means 'under such limitation'. 'Entail' is from the same root. You know the other meaning of the word 'tail'. The tail of a dog, the tail of an aeroplane, etc. This word is from another root"

"Sir, Dr. C. P. Devadas, Calicut, Kerala, wants to know the meaning of 'to keep the options open'."

" 'To keep the options open' means 'stay free to choose'. When you ask a politician whether he is planning to join Party A or Party B, he may say: 'I haven't decided. I'd like to keep the options open'. When you keep the options open, you decide to wait and see. You don't want to decide immediately. 'Option' means 'the freedom to choose'."

*Published in The Hindu on March 21, 1989*

## Word of the day

**Crimp:**
make ridges into by pinching together; curl tightly (when used as a verb)

Synonyms: frizz, crape, kink, pinch

Usage: *We need to crimp the edges in order to seal them.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/crimppro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kɹɪmp/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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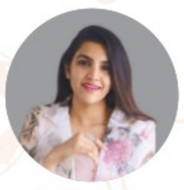
LIFESTYLE TODAY — Krish Ashok

THE COMEBACK — Shaheen Malik

THE COMEBACK — Choudhary Ali Zia Kabir

NEXTGEN BUSINESS — Dr Manimekalai Mohan


NEXTGEN BUSINESS — Srisha Mohandoss

NEXTGEN BUSINESS — Geetha Nagu

NEXTGEN BUSINESS — Isha Nagappan

ROLE OF HISTORY IN TRANSFORMING INDIA — Manu S Pillai

CHALLENGES FACED AS THE PAD WOMAN OF TN — Dr Preethi Ramadoss

PASSION TO PROFESSION — Saransh Goila

CHILD PRODIGY — Meghna Sumesh

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OFFBEAT CAREER — Chetan Tambe

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MINIMALIST LIVING — Durgesh Nandhini

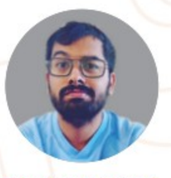
STANDUP COMEDY — Badava Gopi

DJ — Kunal Jain (DJKNJN)

MAKE YOUR MUSIC — Leon James

MAKE YOUR MUSIC — Charumathi

DIGITAL MARKETING & MEDIA — Sorav Jain


DESIGN THINKING — Roshan Raju

UNLOCK CREATIVITY — Rob

RESIN ART — Saba

PERFORMING ARTS — Jaytesh Calpakkam

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STORYTELLING — Geeta Ramanujam

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H.D. Kumaraswamy

## Kumaraswamy hospitalised

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

JD(S) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has been hospitalised in Bengaluru after he complained of weakness and discomfort in the limbs. He was rushed to Apollo Speciality Hospital at Jayanagar and has been admitted under the care of senior consultant neurologist P. Satishchandra and his team.

Govindaiah Yateesh, VP and unit head of the hospital, told *The Hindu* that the former CM had suffered an acute brain stroke. "He was rushed to the hospital within the golden hour around 3.40 a.m. on Wednesday soon after he complained of slurring of speech, weakness, and discomfort in the limbs. He was immediately evaluated and initiated treatment, to which he has responded well. Currently, he is haemodynamically stable, comfortable, and coherent. He is able to move his limbs without any discomfort and is under close observation," he said.

Dr. Satishchandra said the first hour is considered the most crucial because stroke patients have a high chance of survival as well as prevention of long-term brain damage if they receive medical treatment within the first 60 minutes of the onset of symptoms. He will be under observation for 2-3 days after which he could continue his normal activities, he said.

Mr. Kumaraswamy's wife, Anitha Kumaraswamy, said he would be discharged on Friday.

# Congress plans to replicate Karnataka 'models of governance' across India: Rahul

The State is showing the way for the entire country, he says at the launch of the government's flagship Gruha Lakshmi scheme in Mysuru

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launching the Gruha Lakshmi scheme by pressing a button on a tablet at a function in Mysuru on Wednesday in the presence of party president M. Mallikarjun Kharge, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and (right) a large crowd of people at the entry point of the venue. M.A. SRIRAM

**The Hindu Bureau**
MYSURU

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the party plans to replicate the "models of governance" in Karnataka, represented by the guarantee schemes, across the rest of the country.

Addressing a mammoth gathering at the launch of Karnataka government's flagship Gruha Lakshmi scheme – the fourth of the five guarantees which envisages payment of ₹2,000 every month to women head of families in the State – at a function in Mysuru on Wednesday, Mr. Gandhi described the guarantee schemes as "governance models."

The Congress plans to replicate the work taken up by the Government of Karnataka, particularly for women, across the country, he said. "Karnataka was showing the way for the entire country," he added.

Beneficiaries from Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu and Mandya districts had gathered at Maharaja's College grounds, where the launch event was held. While Congress president M. Mallikarjun Kharge, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, inaugurated the function presided over by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Mr. Gandhi pressed the button on an electronic tablet handed over to him by the officials of the State's e-governance department to formally launch the scheme.

**'BJP working for billionnaires'**

Accusing the BJP-led Union government of working for the benefit of billionaires, Mr. Gandhi said the Centre's developmental schemes were aimed at benefiting only them.

The Opposition party leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had accused the Congress of lying and claimed that the guarantee schemes cannot be implemented. But, the party had proved itself by implementing them, he said.

Mr. Gandhi said he heard the women of Karnataka during his Bharat Jodo padayatra last year. The rise in prices of essential commodities including petrol, diesel and LPG was hitting the women hard and they had sought relief from the same.

"The guarantee schemes of Karnataka were not conceived by think tanks or industrialists but by the women of Karnataka. You have shown us the way," he said. Women to society were like roots providing trees with "invisible strength," he said.

**'Congress uniting India'**

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Kharge countered Mr. Modi's questioning of the contributions of the Congress since Independence and said Congress was uniting the country while the BJP was trying to divide India. Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra was testimony to that, he added.

Minister for Women and Child Development Lakshmi Hebbalkar, who is heading the department implementing the scheme, said a total of 1.11 crore beneficiaries across the State had so far been registered for the scheme envisaging Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of ₹2,000 per month. After the formal launch, ten beneficiaries from Mysuru were presented with digital cards by the leaders to symbolically launch the scheme.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who recalled the "glorious days" of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on the occasion, said Gruha Lakshmi scheme has been simultaneously launched across 12,000 venues in different parts of the State including offices of various panchayats, municipalities and wards.

## Choice of speaker at Bar Council's talk on UCC opposed

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

All India Lawyers' Association for Justice (AILAJ) and other 31 independent lawyers have objected to the Karnataka State Bar Council organising a talk on 'Uniform Civil Code Pros and Cons' by advocate Sai Deepak.

In a letter to the Bar Council, they said, "The main speaker proposed for the event is known to be a staunch supporter of India being turned into a Hindu Rashtra, a proposition that runs afoul of our constitutional democracy. This despite the fact that the speaker is a practicing advocate and is thus, fully aware that the value of secularism is a foundational value for the country and forms a part of the basic structure of the Constitution of India." They have expressed shock over the Karnataka State Bar Council, "whose duty it is to promote constitutional values", providing platform to Mr. Deepak.

"Although the topic is 'Uniform Civil Code: Pros and Cons', the views of the present speaker, which are available in the public domain, would show that it is only one side of the debate that would be placed before the public," the letter contended.

The signatories have called upon the Karnataka State Bar Council to immediately call off the event scheduled for August 31.

## 'Yuva Nidhi' rollout in December or January: Siddaramaiah

**The Hindu Bureau**
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced in Mysuru on Wednesday that the fifth guarantee of the Congress government - Yuva Nidhi - will either be launched in December or January next year. The government has promised ₹3,000 to unemployed graduates and ₹1,500 to unemployed diploma holders under the Yuva Nidhi scheme. This will be the last of the guarantees that remains to be launched by the government.

## HC notice to State govt. on plea against appointing 'ineligible' person as judicial member to special court

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered issue of notice to the State government on a PIL petition questioning the legality of appointment of one C.G. Hungund as a judicial member of the Special Court for land grabbing cases.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice M.G.S. Kamal passed the order on the petition filed Umapathi S., a city-based advocate.

The Bench also ordered issue of notice to Mr. Hungund, who was appointed as a judicial member to the special court with effect from October 21, 2022.

The petitioner has contended that Mr. Hungund, a retired district judge, was 'ineligible' for appointment to any further post under the government as he had earlier served a member of the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission between 2012 and 2017.

As per the Section 24(3) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, the chairperson and members of the Human Rights Commission would become intelligible to hold any further employment under the Union or State government once they ceases to hold these posts of the HRCs, the petitioner pointed out.

The petitioner contended that allowing Mr. Hungund to continue as as a judicial member of the special court would amount to mockery of the law, which expressly prohibits further appointments.

## Financial literacy absent among most MSMEs in Karnataka, says KASSIA president

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A file photo of a manufacturing unit in Mysuru.

Financial literacy is literally absent in a majority of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Karnataka, said C.A. Shashidhara Shetty, president, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA).

Mr. Shetty said majority of MSMEs in the State had no financial literacy due to various factors, with the primary reason being lack of focus as entrepreneurs mostly multi-task, do most of the responsibilities on their own therefore left with little scope or having no inclination for them to learn finance-related functions. Echoing similar sentiments, Sudatta Mandal, Deputy MD, SIDBI, said, lack of financial awareness was a major impediment which contributed to the MSMEs missing out on many benefits available to them.

"The Union and State government as well as SIDBI are introducing various schemes, subsidies, incentives, initiatives, etc. for the benefit of MSMEs. However, they are missing out on the benefits due to lack of awareness," he added.

To combat the financial illiteracy among MSMEs in the State, KASSIA, in collaboration with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and the Government of Karnataka launched an outreach campaign here on Wednesday. Under this, around 19 different programmes are expected to be conducted in 31 districts of between August 2023 and March 2024 with follow up events scheduled at Yadgir, Vijayapura and Kalaburagi in September 2024.

SIDBI would act as the MSME partner for Karnataka and work on designing of schemes, suggesting modifications and improvements in schemes, enabling digital interventions, infrastructure development for MSMEs, Mr. Mandal added.

According to Satyaki Rastogi, GM & Regional Head, SIDBI, 95% of MSMEs comprised the micro enterprises, majority of which were proprietary concerns run by a single person, and given their busy schedules, it was difficult for them to keep abreast with the benefits they could avail through various government schemes and initiatives.

**IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (C.C.H.44)**
**P & SC. No. 400/2023**

**BETWEEN: MRS. VRUNDA RANI .S,** W/o Late. V. Prasanth, aged about 41 years, Chirackuzhiyil (House) Ayarkunnam P.O. Kottayam, Kerala-686564. ... **PETITIONER**

**AND: NIL ... RESPONDENTS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas the above named petitioners have made a petition to the Hon'ble Court (CCH-44) under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, praying to grant Probate for the WILL dated 30.05.2020 executed by her husband Late. V. Prashanth, who died on 07-07-2020.

Interested parties are hereby warned to appear in this court in person (or) by a Pleader duly instructed on the **27/09/2023** at **11 'o' clock** in forenoon to show cause against the petition failing wherein, the matter will be heard and determined ex-parte.

**SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY**

**ITEM No.1:** All that part and parcel of the residential converted property bearing Sy No.30/2, measuring 10½ Guntas (10.5 Guntas) Situated at Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, converted as per order bearing No.BDS /ALN:SR(E)217/2005-06 dated: 31/07/2006 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District, and having BBMP (Bommanahalli Sub Division, Singasandra) Khatha No.642/626/30/2 and bounded as follows: **East by:** Property belonging to Smt. Gowramma, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property belonging to Sri K. Manjunath, **South by:** AECS Layout and 60 feet Road.

**SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY**

All the residential Apartment bearing No.S-3, in the Second Floor, "Buildafina Ace" containing 2 bed rooms, measuring 1050 Sq.feet of super built up area inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircases and other areas of common built in Schedule 'A' property together with one covered parking space in the basement of the building "Buildafina Ace" BBMP 'B' Serial No.286 along with 460 Sq. feet undivided share, right, title and interest in Schedule 'A' Property.

**SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY**

**ITEM No.2:** All that part and parcel of the residential converted property bearing Sy No.30/2, measuring 10½ Guntas (10.5 Guntas) Situated at Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, converted as per order bearing No.BDS/ALN:SR(E)217/2005-06 dated 31/07/2006 issued Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District, and having BBMP (Bommanahalli Sub Division, Singasandra) Katha No.642/626/30/2 and bounded as follows: **East by:** Property belonging to Smt. Gowramma, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property belonging to Sri K. Manjunath, **South by:** AECS Layout and 60 feet Road.

**SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY**

All the residential Apartment bearing No. S-5, in the Second Floor, in the building known as "BUILDAFINA ACE" containing 3 bed rooms, measuring 1350 Sq.feet of super built up area inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircases and other areas of common built in Schedule 'A' property together with one covered parking space in the basement of the building "Buildafina Ace" along with 625 Sq. feet undivided share, right, title and interest in Schedule 'A' Property.

Given under my hand and seal of the court, on this 19/08/2023

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Petitioner: **B.C. CHETHAN**
**M/s. LEX FIRM**
No. 201, 2nd Floor, Shankalp Business Bay, Next to Angala Parameshwari Temple, Binny Mill Road, Bengaluru-560023.

**KALABURAGI MAHANAGARA PALIKE**
**Fax No.08472/260776, Phone: 08472/ 278675, Email Id: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com**

No: KMP/HS/SBM2.0/03/2023-24 DATE: 30.08.2023

**CORRIGENDUM / EXTENSION NOTIFICATION**

Sub : Postponement of Submission of tender in e-portal of DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT1405 as below.

With respect to the above cited subject due to technical problem the **DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT1405** the calendar of events have been postponed as below. Hence it is requested to approve the Extension.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Last date of submission of Tender **31.08.2023 upto 4:00pm** | 1. | Last date of submission of Tender Postponed to **07.09.2023 upto 4:00pm** |
| 2. | Date and Time of Prequalification Bid **02.09.2023 at 11:00am** | 2. | Date and Time of Prequalification Bid Postponed to **14.09.2023 at 11:00am** |
| 3. | Last date of opening of Technical bid of Tender **11.09.2023 upto 11:00am** | 3. | Last date of opening of Technical bid of Tender Postponed to **21.09.2023 upto 11:00am** |
| 4. | Last date of opening of Financial bid of Tender **18.09.2023 upto 11:00pm** | 4. | Last date of opening of Financial bid of Tender Postponed to **29.09.2023 upto 11:00am** |

DIPR/Kalaburagi/223/KSMC&A/2023-24

**Sd/- Deputy Commssioner (Dev),**
**Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.**

**BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD**

**INVITATION FOR TENDERS**
**(Only through KPP portal)**

**BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered agencies for the following works.**

**Office of the Chief Engineer(North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.**

| Sl. No. | Division | IFT Number | Amount Put to Tender(Rs.) / EMD Amount(Rs.) | Last date & Time for submission of tender | Date and time for opening of tender |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | North-East | BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/1078/ 2023-24 Dated: 25.08.2023 | Rs. 23,18,372.53 / Rs. 54,720/- | 16.09.2023 upto 4:00 pm | 20.09.2023 after 3:00 pm |
| 2 | | BWSSB/EE(N-E)/TO/PB/1080/ 2023-24 Dated: 25.08.2023 | Rs. 11,02,119/- / Rs. 32,520/- | | |

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-East)**

**Office of the Chief Engineer(South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | South-West-1 | BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/1203/ 2023-24 Dated: 24.08.2023 (Reserved for ST Category) | Rs. 10,21,995/- / Rs. 12,800/- | 19.09.2023 upto 4:00 pm | 21.09.2023 after 3:00 pm |
| 4 | | BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/1203/ 2023-24 Dated: 24.08.2023 | Rs. 38,05,939/- / Rs. 76,200/- | | |

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-West-1)**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | South-West-2 | BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/1099/ 2023-24 Dated: 28.08.2023 | 1 Rs. 30,91,686/- / Rs. 61,900/- | 09.09.2023 upto 4:00 pm | 11.09.2023 after 3:00 pm |
| 6 | | | 2 Rs. 8,80,902/- / Rs. 22,100/- | | |
| 7 | | BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/1099/ 2023-24 Dated: 28.08.2023 (Reserved for ST Category) | 3 Rs. 18,61,975/- / Rs. 18,700/- | | |
| 8 | | BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/1099/ 2023-24 Dated: 28.08.2023 (Reserved for SC Category) | 4 Rs. 17,04,891/- / Rs. 17,050/- | | |
| 9 | | BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/1099/ 2023-24 Dated: 28.08.2023 | 5 Rs. 11,62,568/- / Rs. 29,100/- | | |
| 10 | | | 6 Rs. 8,93,235/- / Rs. 22,400/- | | |
| 11 | | BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/1095/ 2023-24 Dated: 24.08.2023 | 7 Rs. 38,01,465/- / Rs. 76,100/- | | |

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-West-2)**

**Office of the Chief Engineer East 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | WWM-N K&T | BWSSB/EW(N)KT/PB/527/ 2023-24 Dated: 29.08.2023 | Rs. 40.05 lakhs / Rs. 94,518/- | 08.09.2023 upto 4:00 pm | 09.09.2023 at 4:00 pm |

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-N)K&T**

The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

**DIPR/CP/JA/1103/2023-24**

# Weak southwest monsoon paints a cloudy picture for Karnataka

Scanty rainfall over the State has left people staring at the sky for most of August. From crop loss to the Cauvery water sharing issue, the problems triggered by a weak monsoon are aplenty

EXPLAINER

**Shilpa Elizabeth**
BENGALURU

In the late 1980s British writer-journalist Alexander Frater was preparing for his journey to India for a race with the rains. His research before the journey - which would later turn into the book *Chasing the Monsoon* - revealed a southwest monsoon that "had grown spiteful and capricious" around those years.

Frater wrote, "Some areas of India were paid only fleeting visits, some no visits at all. This wilfulness puzzled the weathermen and frightened the politicians; a failed monsoon could mean riots and lost elections. But most of all it frightened the ordinary rural people whose crops and lives depended on it. They, long accustomed to its ancient rhythms and sturdy reliability, found its absence as shocking as, perhaps, death or madness in the family."

### What KSNDMC data shows

Cut to 2023, an El Nino year, and the scanty rainfalls and the erratic patterns are not as shocking as in the 1980s. But the problems remain the same.

A weak monsoon over the State has left the people of Karnataka staring at the sky for most of August. Data from Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) showed the State received 487.9 mm of rainfall between June 1 and August 30, against a normal of 839 mm for the period, bringing Karnataka under the "deficit" category. (A -20 to -59% departure from the normal rainfall is considered 'deficient')

From crop loss to the Cauvery inter-State water sharing issue, the problems triggered by a weak monsoon paint a cloudy picture for Karnataka. But what caused Bengaluru's driest-ever August in the first place?

### Biparjoy-El Nino effect

The southwest monsoon was off to a weak start in Karnataka in the month of June. With the extremely severe cyclonic storm Biparjoy sucking the air dry thereby weakening the conditions required for monsoon, the onset of southwest monsoon was delayed by a week.

However, a scanty rainfall in June was compensated for in July. A 29% surplus of rain in the month helped to reduce the overall rainfall deficit. Agricultural activities in the state picked up. Towards the end of July though, weather models forecasted a "below normal" rainfall in Karnataka from August to September.

The influence of El Nino was to grow stronger by August. El Nino is a natural phenomenon characterised by unusual warming of waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean. In India, its impact is felt in the form of warmer summers and weaker monsoons.

### 'Air-conditioned' city sizzles

On August 28, Bengaluru experienced its hottest August day in 10 years with temperatures touching 32.6 degrees Celsius, 4.5 degrees more than normal. Lack of rainfall has also led to a drinking water crisis in parts of the State. Bengaluru and its outskirts are seeing lowered groundwater tables and borewells gone dry.

Subsequently, the tanker water prices have shot up through the roof, meanwhile, officials are pondering the drilling of additional borewells. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath earlier this month told the media that ₹5 Crore has been earmarked for the supply of water through tankers to address the water supply gaps in the 110 villages.

The Narayanaswamy temple at Anandur on the KRS backwaters, which is normally submerged, has resurfaced due to depleting water level in the KRS reservoir. FILE PHOTO

### What it has meant for agriculture

The onset of the southwest monsoon is also when the farmers begin to sow Kharif crops in Karnataka. The Kharif crops in the State include millets, paddy, pulses, groundnut, red chillies and sugar cane among others.

But this year, the late arrival of the rains delayed the sowing of crops, resulting in a shortened window for the same. As per data from KSNDMC, the total sown area of kharif crops was 66.68 lakh hectares as of 25 August. The target was 82.35 lakh hectares and in 2022 the coverage was 74.37 lakh hectares.

The report also noted that agriculture crops in about 71 percent of the total geographical area experienced moderate to severe moisture stress. Poor rainfall and lack of moisture could result in stunted growth, infestation, and diseases in seedlings and standing crops. This would mean lesser than expected yield, losses for farmers and a rise in food price inflation.

Reeling from what looks like a never-ending summer, farmer groups have been demanding a declaration of drought. Karnataka is currently assessing the status of crops in 120 taluks that have received less rainfall this season. This 'ground truthing' or crop survey is a mandatory prerequisite as per the Union Government's guidelines for declaration of drought.

A deficient monsoon would not bode well for the new Congress government in the State which had announced major schemes like free grains and electricity after coming into power. Already tackling a precarious financial situation, scanty showers would further push the government into financial pressure and political crisis.

### Soaring tension around Cauvery

The scanty monsoon has also brought back the age-old Cauvery dispute to the table. On August 29, the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) directed Karnataka to release 5,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu till September 12.

Tamil Nadu had earlier demanded 24,000 cusecs, while Karnataka maintained the state could release only 3,000 cusecs.

Cauvery river originates at Talakavery in the Brahmagiri Hills of Karnataka, flows through Tamil Nadu, and drains into the Bay of Bengal. The majority of its watershed regions fall in Tamil Nadu. Kerala and Puducherry are the other riparian regions.

Water sharing of the river has been a bone of contention between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu whose origin dates back to the pre-independence period. The dispute rears its head in rain deficit years often leading to conflicts and rising tension between people in both states.

In 1990, the Government of India constituted the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) to adjudicate the water disputes between the states. As per CWDT Karnataka should release around 170 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) to Tamil Nadu in a 'normal' water year.

### Absence of scientific water sharing formula

Experts have often pointed out that the conflicting situation would continue as long as the ad hoc nature of problem resolution and lack of a distress formula are not looked into. While the tribunal has laid out guidelines for water-sharing during normal years, the same is missing for deficit years. Another issue is the water-intensive cropping patterns followed in both states

Earlier this month the Supreme Court ordered Karnataka to release 10,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for 15 days following a petition by Tamil Nadu to release 24,000 cusecs of water. Karnataka, however, appealed to reconsider the decision considering the scarcity of water in the Cauvery basin owing to a poor South West monsoon so far this year.

### Where reservoir levels stand

The water levels of Cauvery basin reservoirs such as Harangi, Hemavathi, K.R.S, and Kabini have decreased in the last seven days. According to KSNDMC data, the levels at Hemavathi, K.R.S, and Kabini reservoirs are lesser than the average levels of the corresponding periods of the last 10 years.

The latest direction by CWMA comes amid opposition from farmers' groups across the Cauvery basin in Karnataka against releasing water to Tamil Nadu. With weather forecasts for September varying between normal and below-normal rainfall, the government as well as the people of the state may have to sweat it out until the skies open.

## Storage level in major reservoirs

| | Gross capacity | Present storage as on 30/08/2023 | Last year storage as on 30/08/2022 | % of present storage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harangi | 8.5 | 7.69 | 7.66 | 90 |
| Hemavathi | 37.1 | 25.27 | 36.74 | 68 |
| K.R.S. | 49.45 | 24.08 | 48.23 | 49 |
| Kabini | 19.52 | 13.66 | 19.13 | 70 |

Capacity in tmcft

AAP leader Mukhyamantri Chandru joined the farmer's protest led by Kurubur Shanthakumar against the release of water from Kabini reservoir in Mysuru.

# Axis Communications opens experience centre in Bengaluru

The inauguration of the Axis Experience Centre in Bengaluru.

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Axis Communications, a leading player in the video surveillance segment, has announced the opening of an experience centre and a new office in Bengaluru.

The Axis Experience Centre, the company's first in India, enables an immersive first-hand experience of future-ready technologies with physical product showcases and interactive demonstrations.

Among the offerings at the centre are advanced surveillance systems encompassing features such as audio analytics, intrusion detection, automated access control systems, as well as data analysis tools that provide insights for better decision-making.

Ray Mauritsson, CEO, Axis Communications, said, "Sixteen years ago, we opened the doors to our first office in India. Opening an Axis Experience Centre in addition to our new office is a long-term investment and commitment, which will help us serve our customers in this region even better going forward."

Sudhindra Holla, Director, Axis Communications, India and SAARC, said, "An experience centre in a major business hub like Bengaluru will enable us to engage our stakeholders more effectively across India. We are eager to collaborate closely with reliable partners to construct intelligent, secure, sustainable, and efficient businesses of tomorrow."

# *Wepushthesky: A story of friends, faith and future*

The play is an affirmation of one's ability to forge belonging from the sharp edges of differences

**Yemen S.**
BENGALURU

A solo performance by Nisha Abdulla and directed by Ujwala Rao, *Wepushthesky,* invites the audience to listen to what lies beneath the surface. Opened in December 2022, the play has been performed at various venues in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Malappuram, and Kochi and will be performed for the first time at Ranga Shankara, J.P. Nagar, on Friday, September 1.

In this production by Qabila Collective, the protagonist weaves personal stories and community histories into a powerful account of friendships lost, found, and lasting. Amid loud and divisive political rhetoric, the play is an affirmation of one's ability to forge belonging from the sharp edges of differences.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Ujwala said that it aims to talk to people who are politically confused. "When we set out to do this play one conscious call we made was to keep the messaging of the play not political. The play aims to talk to people who are apolitical or politically confused, they feel something is wrong but don't know why. We want to encourage the audience to not assume that this is something politically heavy for them to watch. The play is about stories of friendship and faith, and how the nature of friendships have changed in a polarising political climate. As a director what enthused me to make this play was that it is Nisha Abdulla the performer's personal story, memories, and community experiences," Ujwala said.

A scene from the play.

The title of the play *Wepushthesky* is inspired by Nick Cave's song *Push the Sky*. Earlier the play was a digital piece of art directed by theatre person Vivek Madan, in which Ujwala was the dramaturg of the play.

However, when it was decided that a physical play would be made out of the story, she decided to don the cap of the director and create a solo-performance piece based on the personal story of her friend.

The lights for the performance are designed by Madhusudana B.R. and Arun D.T., set design by Gowtham Upadhya and production handled by Shradha Raj. Tickets for the play are available at the Ranga Shankara box-office and on BookMyShow.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 31, 1973

## Councillors' Interference in Octroi Work Alleged

Bangalore, Aug. 30: A Poura Samithi Councillor, Mr. A. Lakshmi Sagar, and the former Mayor, Mr. Tiwari, alleged in the Bangalore Municipal Corporation to-day that some councillors were making "nocturnal" visits to the octroi checkposts of the Corporation and were interfering with the "Lawful duties" of the staff working there. They demanded the chair to put an end to such "Unauthorised" visits.

Mr. Sagar, raising the issue, charged that members of the Standing Committee, Taxation, and Finance had taken upon themselves "Individually" and "collectively" the task of octroi collection at the Ookada (check posts). He wanted to know whether they were lawfully empowered to do so under the Municipal Act.

## Councillors' Complaint Against Dairy Milk

Bangalore, Aug. 30: The Mayor, Mr. A.K. Ananthakrishna, assured the agitated municipal councillors to-day that the samples of milk supplied by the Bangalore Dairy to several corporation run maternity homes had been sent to the public analyst for examination, following complaints that it was causing diarrhoea to young mothers and children.

He told the Bangalore Municipal Corporation meeting that the civic body would take appropriate action after the receipt of the report from the public analyst.

GIG GUIDE

# Grunge-era music and desi melodies to sway the city

What's your musical mood this weekend? Psychedelic rock or alternate rock? Take a pick...

**Anurag Tagat**

**Lojal Experience, Timeship**
September 1st, 9 pm onwards
FANDOM AT GILLY'S REDEFINED, KORAMANGALA
**Tickets:** ₹399 via Insider.in, plus ₹499 cover charge at the door.

Based in Mumbai, Manipur-origin Lojal aka Martin Haokip has had stints in Bengaluru as well as Goa, and pretty much won over audiences at every stage he has taken on. Ever the lateral thinker, performer and songwriter when it comes to his music, his live music act – The Lojal Experience – shifts genres and stays powerfully soulful at its core. The event description adds, "Lojal's live performances are a phenomenon of emotional roller-coasting and fluidity. The Lojal Experience is a collective of super-buds sharing, jamming, and creating together. The act takes many forms and each act traverses various soundscapes ranging from soul, R&B/hip-hop, psychedelia, alternative rock, and various forms of dance/electronic influences."

The Lojal Experience at Fandom's gig series Love Of Live is supported by Bengaluru-based Timeship, a project by multi-instrumentalist, singer-songwriter and producer Siddharth Pradeep. On the back of releasing his EP *Full Circle* in 2020 and a handful of singles, expect classic and psychedelic rock with influences from blues, jazz, and pop. A description for the event adds, "Siddharth draws inspiration from personal experiences, exploring emotions, and existentialism, and occasionally adopting a satirical tone to humorously reflect our peculiar world. Despite its personal nature, Timeship's music resonates with a wide audience, aligning with Siddharth's core objective."

**When Chai Met Toast, M.S. Krsna, Frizzell D'Souza**
September 2nd, 7:30 onwards
PHOENIX MARKETCITY, WHITEFIELD
**Tickets:** ₹1399 onwards, via Insider.in

After a big run of shows in the UK and the US, Kochi-origin, indie-folk favorites When Chai Met Toast bring their latest EP *LYTS (Love You The Same)* to the stage in Indian cities with plenty of indie artists playing support. Although they are best known for their bright and joyful tunes such as 'Khoj (Passing By)' and 'Firefly', there is a new spirit imbued in the four-track EP which came out in May via Universal Music India. With songs such as 'So Beautiful, With You', the Japan-gazing 'Sushi Song', 'Hearts Never Break' and the title track, the quartet push into a new kind of maturity while retaining their exuberance.

The event descriptions adds, "As they take the stage, the crowd is greeted with the warmth of a thousand suns, their spirits lifted by the familiar refrain of 'Khoj ( and 'Firefly.' The band's euphoric blend of folk-pop will transport you to a whimsical world, reminiscent of the lyrics from 'Love You The Same' as they embrace the mantra of hope and resilience."

The band is joined by Chennai singer-songwriter M.S. Krsna as well as Mangalore-raised, Bengaluru-based Frizzell D'Souza.

**Blakc, Mocaine, simplemanradio**
September 1st, 7:30 pm onwards
THE RAFT, KORAMANGALA
**Tickets:** ₹499, via Skillbox

Three wide-ranging rock bands come together to head out on the road for The Noises In The Attic tour, put together by event/artist company BlueTree and featuring Mumbai-based Blakc, New Delhi-origin Mocaine and Bengaluru-based simplemanradio. They kick off their five-city run of shows in the city, performing at The Raft in Koramangala. Expect alt-rock, grunge-era inspired intensity and psychedelic/punk sounds as well.

Amrit Mohan, founder and bandleader of Mocaine, says they have expanded their lineup for the Noises In The Attic tour. With Varun Sood on drums (who is also behind the kit for Blakc), Mocaine also has Aman Shah on bass and Sanmeet Singh as second guitarist. Amrit adds, "In Bangalore, of course that will grow into a bigger six-piece by the end of the set with sax and keys."

The band will perform from their albums *The Birth of Billy Munro* and *The Story of Jonah Stone*, plus their upcoming third full-length that carries forward the narrative of the characters in the Billy Munro fictive universe. "A little less than half our set is unreleased material, from both Billy part three and a stand-alone album that will come out this year. We're excited to play at The Raft for the first time, the BYOB concept is very intriguing, can't wait to experience it," Amrit adds.



## CITYBEATS

### Fly me to the Moon

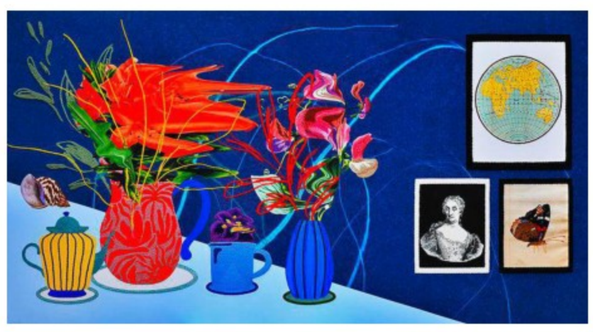
**ON GOING**
The Black Pearl in Marathahalli pays tribute to lunar success with a food festival.
This buffet showcases an array of textures, colours, and flavours that evoke the celestial world. Dishes such as celestial crisps, cosmic chaat platter, stardust sundae and moonstruck mithai platter will add to the mood.
*Call 09880434555 to book your table.* |

### Middle Eastern moves

**SEPTEMBER 2**
Nrityakosh, an oriental and fusion belly dance group, will present *Parikrama* – A Journey Through 10 Middle Eastern Dance Styles as well as a lecture demonstration. The entire show has been conceptualised and choreographed by Debapriya Das.
Tickets and details on BookMyShow.
*At Shoonya Centre for Arts and Somatic Practices, Lal Bagh Main Road, at 6.30pm.*

### Get footloose

**SEPTEMBER 3**
Groove to techno beats and music by Sébastien Léger. Hailing from France, Léger has carved a niche for himself as a DJ and producer.
He is known for his innovative sounds that are said to ignite the dance floor.
The event begins at 7pm and tickets are priced at ₹499, available on Insider.in
*At Magique, Koramangala*



Tales Told in Objects from Rakhee Shenoy's series Presence of Absence

# Kaleidoscope of memories

**Ruth Dhanaraj**

What would you see if you took a walk in your own mind right now? A jumble of images flashing past, to-do lists fighting to stay in focus and a myriad emotions clamouring for attention? In her show titled, Presence of Absence, Bengaluru-based artist Rakhee Shenoy gives viewers a glimpse of her subconscious persona.

"When I started, I came up with this theme of 'the dream-like comfort of an imaginary elsewhere'. It is basically a mishmash of all the things that are dear to me, my dreams and aspirations. However, objects of significance that I have around me have been depicted too, and not just what is in my imagination," says Rakhee.

Her series, Presence of Absence, showcases an extraordinary juxtaposition of objects including floating fish and teabags, hot air balloons and a sewing machine, that are usually not seen together. There are also vases of different shapes and sizes, bearing a wondrous riot of flowers in every hue.

"I do a lot of sewing, I drink a lot of tea," she laughs, adding, "We may not see these objects together, but there is no designated spot or zone in our heads. Everything is right there."

Rakhee goes on to elaborate how the objects which find place in her work have a personal significance. "For instance, one of my pieces has a radio – it is one my granddad and I used to listen to in the afternoons when he was alive. That small radio and us sitting on the balcony enjoying old Hindi songs is a cherished memory."

Rakhee's medium of choice is actually a combination of many techniques – hand painting, drawings and digital drawings. "The hand drawings and paintings are scanned, after which I collage them onto archival canvas. I then paint over it and add hand embroidery."

"I believe my work is a crossover of art and design; my textile background has inspired my art in a lot of ways," says the artist who specialised in textile weaves while pursuing her MFA from the Royal College in London.

*Presence of Absence will be on display at the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur from Sept 1-3.*

*The exhibition will be available for viewing at Artisera in Indiranagar by request and on www.artisera.com till September 24, 2023.*

# Nibbles from India's literary, culinary menu

**Swathi Nair**

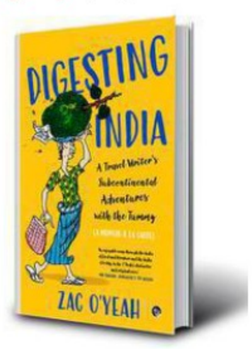
A literary rendezvous unfolded at Blossom Book House, where Swedish author Zac O'Yeah and culinary columnist Samar Halarnkar delved into the heart of *Digesting India*, Zac's latest book. The event was marked by a captivating conversation that intertwined cultures, culinary experiences and literary explorations.

The pages of *Digesting India* came alive as Zac, a seasoned traveller with a three-decade-long love affair with India, shared his journey of flavours and stories. Blending memoir with travelogue and historical insights, the book paints a vibrant scene of India's diverse culinary landscape.

Zac, who shuttles between his residences in Bengaluru and Coorg, expressed his fondness for Bengaluru, saying, "I enjoy Bengaluru. I can grab a book from Blossoms and easily head to Koshy's for a quiet meal."

Recalling a journey to Bengaluru, Zac reminisced about a lively debate aboard a train, on the nuanced distinction between a pub and a bar. "In those days, Brigade Road was peppered with numerous pubs such as Pecos and Plan B. While times have evolved, Pecos remains a nostalgic beacon; it's a place I still frequent," Zac remarked.

**Right byte** (left) Zac O'Yeah at a book launch event in the city. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT




**The book blends memoir and travelogue with history, literature, and fun in eight essays**

Commencing from his Bengaluru base, O'Yeah raised a toast to Dewar's, the iconic bar in Bamboo Bazaar, inviting attendees to relive the nostalgia of a bygone era. The trail led to the footsteps of legendary author R. Narayan, unveiling the eateries that could have been the inspiration behind the fictional town of Malgudi.

His book blends memoir and travelogue with history, literature, and fun. The book features eight essays that take readers on a fast-paced tour of India's food and drinks.

During his travels, books by RK Narayan were Zac's companions. Zac recounted a time he flew to India in the late 90s to interview Narayan, who had suggested a meeting in Chennai whenever Zac was in the city.

"I went to Chennai and called him. He said, 'No, I don't give interviews.' He asked about my breakfast, and I replied, 'You know, *dosa, idli, sambar*.' He was surprised and said, 'You eat South Indian food?' Then he said, 'Come and meet me.'"

It was only after realising that Zac was staying in a modest local motel, enjoying a simple *dosa* for breakfast, that an invitation was extended. Zac shares, "Even then, he said, 'Let's just have a conversation, not an interview where you ask prepared questions and I respond. Let's just have a chat like normal humans.'"

During their exchange, Narayan told Zac, "It's good that you eat *dosa* here in India because, in Sweden, you won't get the right fermentation."

Reflecting on a chat at Narayan's Chennai home, Zac said, "He asked me, 'Why do you even want to meet me?' I said, 'Suppose you like the writings of Chekhov or Shakespeare, wouldn't you want to meet them too?' Narayan responded, 'Just because you like somebody's writings, there's no guarantee that they are nice people.'"

"I was left speechless for a bit, as I was in the company of one of the greatest living writers on earth, but that's how he was and that's what made him great," added Zac.

# Pragyan's cameras capture Vikram lander

## The rover has also been carrying out in-situ scientific experiments

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover has captured an image of the Vikram lander. Pragyan's Navigation Camera on Wednesday clicked the image of Vikram.

"Chandrayaan-3 Mission: Smile, please! Pragyan Rover clicked an image of Vikram Lander this morning. The image was taken by the Navigation Camera onboard the Rover (NavCam). NavCams for the Chandrayaan-3 Mission are developed by the Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems (LEOS)," ISRO posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Chandrayaan-3 consists of a lander module and propulsion module. The lander module consists of Vikram and Pragyan.

Chandrayaan-3 mission's Vikram lander as captured by the navigation camera aboard Pragyan rover on Wednesday. ANI/ ISRO

Post the soft landing on the lunar surface, the Pragyan rover rolled out from the Vikram lander and since then has been traversing on the Moon. Apart from taking pictures it has also been carrying out in-situ scientific experiments.

The image of the lander also shows the deployment of the Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) and Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA). These two are among the four payloads onboard the lander.

The ChaSTE payload measures the temperature profile of the lunar topsoil around the pole while the ILSA's objective is to measure the seismicity around the landing site.

On August 29, Pragyan confirmed the presence of Sulphur (S) in the region as the Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument onboard the rover made the first-ever in-situ measurements on the elemental composition of the lunar surface near the south pole.

# Guidelines cannot replace Works of Defence Act to impose restrictions on constructions: Karnataka HC

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The defence authorities cannot issue guidelines by exercising executive power for imposing restrictions on proposed constructions in the vicinity of defence establishments when the Works of Defence Act, 1903, stipulates a methodology for imposition of such restrictions, said the High Court of Karnataka.

Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav made these observations while setting aside a communication issued by the Chief Quality Assurance Establishment (Warship Equipment), Jalahalli, in 2016.

The CQAE, relying on the guidelines evolved between 2011-16 by the defence authorities for restricting constructions

around defence establishments, had in 2016 refused to grant a no-objection certificate to a builder for constructing a residential complex on a property situated in the vicinity of a defence establishment on Tumakuru Road.

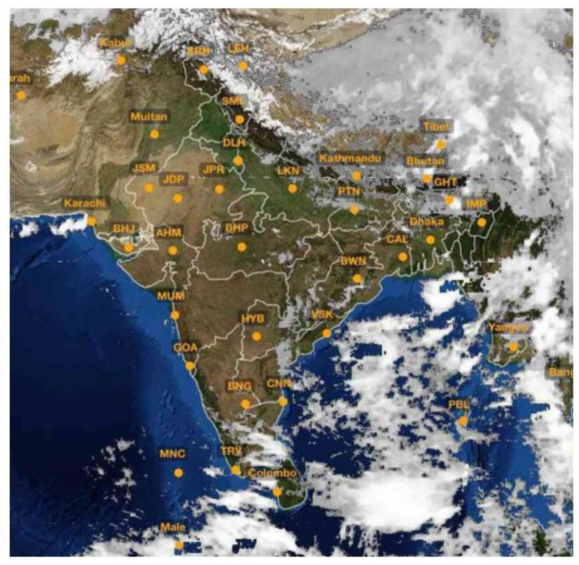
Following this communication from CQAE, the BBMP had kept in abeyance the plan submitted by the petitioner, Merushikhar Infra LLP, for the proposed joint development of a residential complex on the land belonging to Jumbo Plastics Pvt. Ltd.

"As it is clear that guidelines have been issued during the interregnum when steps were afoot to amend the Works of Defence Act, recourse to guidelines during such period is impermissible," the court said while observing that when power is required to be exercised under the 1903 Act in a particular manner, the authorities cannot resort to a different manner, through the guidelines.

Though the petitioner has not challenged the validity of the guidelines, the court said the guidelines cannot be relied upon by the Union government to impose restrictions as long as the 1903 Act is in operation and is not amended.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday




TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Thursday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Mahe

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | 0.2 | 35.4 | 26.3 | Kozhikode | — | 34.4 | 26.2 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 35.6 | 26.0 | Kurnool | — | 34.4 | 26.2 |
| Aizawl | — | — | 22.8 | Lucknow | — | 35.3 | 27.1 |
| Allahabad | — | — | 26.8 | Madurai | 27 | 36.0 | 23.6 |
| Bengaluru | — | 32.5 | 21.9 | Mangaluru | — | 31.0 | 24.4 |
| Bhopal | — | — | 21.1 | Mumbai | 0.7 | 31.9 | 25.4 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 35.2 | 25.7 | Mysuru | — | 33.0 | 23.0 |
| Chandigarh | — | 35.0 | 26.0 | New Delhi | — | 36.3 | 27.3 |
| Chennai | — | 36.7 | 26.1 | Patna | — | 35.4 | 25.6 |
| Coimbatore | — | 35.2 | 24.2 | Port Blair | 2 | 29.9 | 24.7 |
| Dehradun | — | 34.6 | 23.4 | Puducherry | — | 37.2 | 25.8 |
| Gangtok | 3 | 23.8 | 18.5 | Pune | — | 32.2 | 20.1 |
| Goa | 0.4 | 32.2 | 23.5 | Raipur | — | 32.6 | 25.3 |
| Guwahati | — | 35.8 | 24.9 | Ranchi | — | 32.8 | 23.0 |
| Hubballi | — | 29.0 | 22.0 | Shillong | — | 26.9 | 17.5 |
| Hyderabad | — | 33.1 | 23.2 | Shimla | — | 25.8 | 15.5 |
| Imphal | — | 32.1 | 21.9 | Srinagar | — | 30.0 | 13.7 |
| Jaipur | — | 36.0 | 26.0 | Thiruvananthapuram | 26 | 32.3 | 22.5 |
| Kochi | 41 | 29.4 | 24.2 | Tiruchi | 31 | 34.6 | 23.4 |
| Kohima | — | 27.5 | 18.4 | Vijayawada | — | 35.8 | 26.4 |
| Kolkata | 67 | 36.0 | 23.9 | Visakhapatnam | — | 34.5 | 26.7 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | .31 | ..— | 151 | ..20 | ..79 | |
| Bengaluru | ..8 | .29 | .73 | ..63 | ..92 | |
| Chennai | ..5 | 100 | 109 | ...— | ..36 | |
| Delhi | ..— | ..— | .60 | .170 | .358 | |
| Hyderabad | .11 | .12 | .41 | .140 | .119 | |
| Kolkata | .17 | .54 | .20 | .161 | .157 | |
| Lucknow | ..8 | .27 | .31 | .111 | .101 | |
| Mumbai | ..3 | .24 | .45 | .156 | .214 | |
| Pune | 105 | 161 | 112 | ..61 | ..54 | |
| Visakhapatnam | .15 | .22 | .32 | .106 | .198 | |

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Motihari, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 328 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Manesar, Haryana recorded a healthy AQI score of 23

**Air Quality Code:** Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

# IMSc to pay homage to founder Alladi Ramakrishnan

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

The Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc) will pay homage to its visionary founder-director, Alladi Ramakrishnan, in his birth centenary year by hosting a conference in his honour on its campus in Taramani, Chennai. The eminent physicist was born on August 9, 1923.

The Alladi Ramakrishnan Centenary Conference, to be held between December 16 and 18, will feature scientific talks by leading researchers from across the world, as well as interactions with industry leaders, institution builders, and science policy makers in the Indian context. To mark the occasion, a bust of Ramakrishnan will also be unveiled at the Institute.

Inspired by the many seminars on modern physics that he had heard during his visit to the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton in 1957-58 at the invitation of its director Robert Oppenheimer, Ramakrishnan returned to Madras and subsequently started a theoretical physics Seminar in his family home, Ekamra Nivas. This was regularly attended by physicists and mathematicians from across the world as well as his students.

When the Physics Nobel Laureate Niels Bohr toured India in 1960 as the guest of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, he said that two things had impressed him the most: the massive setup of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research directed by Homi Bhabha in Bombay, and the small band of students trained by Alladi Ramakrishnan in Madras.

Nehru went on to meet Ramakrishnan, and with his support, the Institute of Mathematical Sciences was founded and inaugurated in 1962. Ramakrishnan served as its director till his retirement in 1983 at the age of 60. In six decades, the IMSc has grown into a leading research institution.

Professor Alladi Ramakrishnan, left, the Nobel Laureate astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, and Madras Education Minister C. Subramaniam, walking to the dais for the inauguration of the IMSc, on January 3, 1962.

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

G20 भारत 2023 INDIA
वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्
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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

KSIIDC

Department of Infrastructure Development
Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation

**Air Connectivity between Bengaluru and Shivamogga: A dream fulfilled**

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

**Shivamogga joins development corridor of the country with air connectivity**

Hon'ble Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development **Sri M B Patil** to accompany elected representatives of Shivamogga District in the inaugural flight.

Heralds the economic, industrial, educational and tourism development of Malnad region.

**Grand welcome to the inaugural flight**

**Date: 31.08.2023 | Time: 11.05 am | Place: Shivamogga Airport, Sogane**

**In the august presence of**

Sri Madhu Bangarappa
Hon'ble Minister for Primary and Secondary Education and Shivamogga District In-charge Minister

Sri B Y Raghavendra
Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shivamogga

Smt. Sharada Poorya Naik
Hon'ble MLA, Shivamogga Rural

**Inaugural flight**
Departure from Bengaluru at 9:50 am
Arrival at Shivamogga Airport at 11:05 am
Departure from Shivamogga at 11:25 am
Arrival at Bengaluru at 12:25 pm

**Commencement of Bengaluru-Shivamogga Flights**

**Highlights of the Airport**

779 acres land area
₹450 crore cost
3,050 metre runway length
4,340 square metre passenger terminal

First Airport to be managed and operated by the State government. For this license is granted

Provision for landing of bigger Airbus aircraft

Network of Apron, Isolation Bay, Taxiway & other facilities.

Provides direct air connectivity from Malnad to various parts of the country

Night landing facility to start in two months

**Gaurav Gupta,** IAS
Additional Chief Secretary
Department of Infrastructure Development
Government of Karnataka

**Karnataka – Gateway to Development**

**Dr. M. R. Ravi,** IAS
Managing Director
Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation

## Playing out a farce

### The Manipur Assembly disregards duty by adjourning *sine die* at a time of crisis

Given what transpired on Tuesday, it is difficult not to term the functioning of the government and the legislature in conflict-ridden Manipur a farce being played out in the State. The Assembly met just before the stipulated six months after the last session on March 3. Article 174(1) of the Constitution mandates that sittings have to take place within six months of the end of the previous session. Incomprehensibly, the session was adjourned *sine die* just 48 minutes after it began; there was barely 11 minutes of business with 10 MLAs of the Kuki-Zo community also absent. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had reportedly invited the absentee Kuki MLAs to the House, by guaranteeing their security, but they denied having spoken to him and refused to buy the guarantee by pointing to the law and order situation in the Imphal valley. This reiterates the breakdown of trust between legislators of one community and the government's leadership despite a sharing of party affiliations. The session was originally set to convene on August 21, but the Governor, Anusuiya Uikey, had, inexplicably, not issued the notification summoning the House, despite the Cabinet's advice to her on August 4. That legislative functions have been so poorly conducted when there are pressing issues related to the rehabilitation of displaced residents, the recovery of looted weapons, the persisting ethnic divide leading up to "economic blockades" and the sporadic violence, indicate the failure of a government that commands an electoral majority in the House.

The Manipur Assembly is no stranger to controversy. In its previous iteration, little heed was paid to parliamentary conventions, as it was marked by rampant defections, exemplified by the case of Congress MLA T. Shyamkumar, who became a Minister in the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government and later stripped of his office by the Supreme Court which had lost patience with the Speaker's inaction after his blatant violation of the anti-defection law. This time around, the BJP regime suffers a severe legitimacy deficit – in its inability to bring about a turnaround in the deterioration of ethnic relations following the May 3 violence and to conduct proper legislative sessions to at least discuss a way out. Ethnic conflicts present complex problems, but the use of constitutional means is a must to enable workable solutions. As things stand, the two sparring communities in the State are veering towards positions that are becoming even more intractable as the government continues to flounder. The BJP is mistaken if it continues to believe that its ham-handed approach to retain the status quo in leadership will yield a breakthrough in the State.

## Share the distress

### The plight of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu shows need for distress-sharing formula

Distress is not uncommon to the Cauvery basin. As this year's southwest monsoon plays truant in the catchment in Kerala and Karnataka, familiar scenes are unfolding. Tamil Nadu, which has a cumulative shortfall of around 51 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) in its share of water as on August 28, has been seeking 24,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs), or about 2.07 tmc ft a day, at Billigundulu on the inter-State border, during the second half of August. After its representatives protested at the meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on August 11 over the CWMA's perceived change in fixing the quantum of water release, it went to the Supreme Court, where the Authority is expected to present its report on September 1. Apart from the release for August, Tamil Nadu urged the Court to direct Karnataka to release the quantum of 36.76 tmc ft for September, as stipulated in the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's final award (2007) and modified by the Court in February 2018. Cauvery delta farmers need water to save short-term standing (paddy) *kuruvai* crop over 5.6 lakh acres. The situation on the other side is no better. Karnataka, in its affidavit, has informed the Court that the catchments of its two key reservoirs have had deficit rainfall. The CWMA has also assessed the deficit in inflow to Karnataka's four reservoirs in the basin to be about 51%. Its stand is that Tamil Nadu has "failed to understand that 2023 is not a normal water year, but a distress water year".

The plight of both States reinforces the need for a distress-sharing formula – one that is favoured by both as a matter of principle. The Tribunal, in its final award, had advocated the concept of proportionate reduction in allocated shares, which was reiterated by the Court in its 2018 judgment. But, in practice, its implementation appears to be hurdle-ridden, if the decisions of the Authority and its assisting body, the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC), are an indication. Early this month, the CWRC's recommendation of 15,000 cusecs was reduced by the Authority to 10,000 cusecs. Even though the Authority says that it accounts for the ground realities and the relevant data, it should not create the perception that its decisions are shaped otherwise. Despite uncertainty about the remainder of the monsoon and rainfall pattern of the northeast monsoon (October-December) that will cover Tamil Nadu, what should not be glossed over is Karnataka's move to comply with the CWMA's directive to release 5,000 cusecs to Tamil Nadu till September 12. The quantum is insufficient for the lower riparian State but the least the two States can do is to ensure that the Cauvery does not become cause for disharmony.

# The need for an Indian system to regulate AI

**Srinath Sridevan**

is a Senior Advocate at the Madras High Court

Consider these facts: Artificial Intelligence (AI) is here to stay; AI possesses the capability to fundamentally change the way in which we work; AI can, by assimilation of data from multifarious online sources, present far more powerful (and seemingly creative) solutions than any human can; AI is a far greater force of either good or evil (or both). Given all this, AI needs to be regulated.

**'East is east and west is west'**

Governments across the world are grappling with the regulation of AI. Till recently, the greatest advances in the regulation of AI have been made in the European Union (EU), Brazil, Canada, Japan and now, China. Countries in the EU, Brazil and the United Kingdom (which shall be referred to hereafter as "western systems") have adopted regulatory measures with differences which, on a closer study, are superficial. Regulations in Japan and China, however, are fundamentally different from the western system.

The western systems have all adopted means of regulation which are intrinsically western in character. That is to say, they are founded in the Eurocentric view of jurisprudence. The eastern model is entirely different.

The western model focuses on a risk-based approach. First, lawmakers create a pyramid of risks and identify the risks posed by every type of AI-based application. The pyramid of risks then proceeds to be divided into four categories: 'unacceptable risk', 'high risk', 'limited risk' and 'low risk'. In the EU therefore, lawmakers have gone about prescribing prohibited classes of activities for the 'unacceptable risks', a regulated class of activities for the 'high risks', and a simple set of disclosure-based obligations for the 'low risks'. Brazil too has followed a system of categorisation of risks and regulations to address those risks. It also has strict governance measures to be complied with by all AI applications. Canada too follows a similar pattern of identifying activities to be prohibited, and clear regulations on how AI-based applications must function.

As far as the eastern models are concerned, the Japanese government's Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council has framed a set of rules called the "Social Principles of Human-Human-Centric AI". It was published by the Japanese government in March 2019 and manifests the basic principles of an AI-capable society. The first part contains seven social principles that society and the state must respect when dealing with AI: human-centricity; education/literacy; data protection; ensuring safety; fair competition; fairness, accountability and transparency, and innovation.

> The oriental and occidental approaches to legal regulation are fundamentally different, and India must look east

The Chinese regulations are even more interesting. The opening lines of Article 4 of these regulations are: "The provision and use of generative artificial intelligence services shall abide by laws and administrative regulations, respect social morality and ethics, and abide by the following provisions".

The law goes on to prescribe the kind of values that should be upheld and promoted by artificial intelligence services, and the ends that should be achieved through these AI-based applications and services. The difference is stark. While there are areas of overlap, it is readily evident that one set of rules (the western model) spells out what must be done, and how to do it. The weight of the rules rests on the means to be adopted and the rationale underlying those means. The other set of rules focuses on the ends and the values that must be upheld by compliance with the rules.

The western model is perfect for the West – a clear set of rules, which a rule-abiding society will undoubtedly comply with, along with a set of proscriptions and punishments for the few who violate the law.

The eastern model is more open, and embraces the overlap between the legality of the rules and the morality of the rules. Legal systems which possess this overlap have even been given the name, "Hindu Jurisprudence", by legal philosopher Harrop Freeman.

Why is there this difference between the West and the East? In the 1930s, Professor Northrop of the Yale Law School undertook a very interesting study of legal systems in the East and the West. While he was not particularly focused on Indian legal systems, his conclusions, as outlined below, are very apt to us as well.

**The underlying theories**

After examining the cultural relativism between the eastern and the western systems, Professor Northrop concluded that eurocentric legal systems (or western legal systems) created rules of law through "postulation". That is to say, the legal system defines precisely what must be done in any given social order, by humans, and prescribes the penalties for non-compliance therewith. On the other hand, eastern or oriental legal systems created rules of law through "intuition". That is to say, the law prescribes the end that is to be achieved, and the morality underlying that law. The subjects intuitively divine for themselves the most appropriate means of achieving those ends, keeping in view the underlying morality of the law.

In India, our ancient legal systems were so profoundly successful because there was a clear indication of the end to be achieved, as well as an underlying moral code. People complied with those laws by the process of intuition underlaid by morality. We see repeated echoes of these in the Pandavas' exile to the forest, and in Emperor Ashoka's edicts. This served us well. Neighbour China has a story where Emperor Wudi in 140 BC punished his errant sister, by proclaiming, "The laws are created by my former royal fathers. If I break their laws because of my sister, how can I face them in the royal temple after I die?" Law and morality are synonymous in the East.

The British who came to India transplanted their legal system here. What we have today possesses neither the virtues of our ancient Indian system nor the virtues (which are not inconsiderable) of the English legal system.

**Cue from the judiciary**

Justice V. Ramasubramaniam, who retired recently from the Supreme Court of India has lamented in more than one judgment that our slavish tendency is to ape western legal systems. One of his most celebrated judgments, on cryptocurrency in India, has, at its core, the Sanskrit epigram "*neti neti*" – meaning "it is neither this nor that". One would expect regulators to take the cue from our judges and frame our newest regulations based on our eastern models of jurisprudence.

Thus, systems based on AI must be regulated. It is for India to frame its regulations. Do we slavishly copy the West, and frame lengthy regulations, with labyrinthine procedures and procrustean punishments? Or do we hark back to our roots and approach these regulations from a different perspective?

NITI Aayog has circulated three discussion papers which touch upon AI. In each of these, there are references only to the AI regulations in the EU, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia. It has gone on to state: "The responsible AI principles discussed earlier in this Paper, have been developed by first identifying systemic considerations prevalent among AI systems across the world, and identifying principles that may be used to mitigate the identified considerations." A reading of the discussion paper suggests that NITI Aayog is going to follow the western model.

The time has come for India to have regulations in a manner that is consistent with the Indian ethos, by and for Indians. Let us hope that AI regulation is done better than indications suggest. India must look east.

# Cross the boulders in the Indus Waters Treaty

**Amit Ranjan**

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The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), brokered by the World Bank, which has again become a source of contention between India and Pakistan, considerably encapsulates the principle of equitable allocation rather than the principle of appreciable harm. Both India and Pakistan are granted exclusive rights to utilise the waters of the rivers allocated to them without harming others' interests. Under the IWT, India has unrestricted use of the three eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej), while Pakistan enjoys similar rights over the three western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab). India is allowed to store 3.60 million-acre feet (MAF) (0.40 MAF on the Indus, 1.50 MAF on the Jhelum and 1.70 MAF on the Chenab) of water. The sector-wise allocation is 2.85 MAF for conservation storage (divided into 1.25 MAF for "general storage" and 1.60 for "power storage") and an additional 0.75 MAF for "flood storage".

**The issue is India's hydel projects**

The core of the issue now between India and Pakistan involves the Kishanganga and Ratle hydroelectric power plants in India's Jammu and Kashmir.

India considers these projects crucial for energy needs and the region's development, while Pakistan has raised objections, citing violations of the treaty and potential negative effects on its water supply which goes against the provisions outlined in Annexure D of the treaty.

Pakistan first raised its concerns over the Kishanganga project in 2006 and the Ratle project on the Chenab in 2012. In 2010, the dispute on the Kishanganga project was taken to the Court of Arbitration (CoA). Pakistan contended that India's plan is not in line with Article III, Article IV (6) and Paragraph 15(iii) of Annexure D of the IWT. In 2013, the CoA delivered the final judgment, ruling that the Kishanganga hydroelectric project is a run-of-river dam, and India, under the IWT, can divert water from the river Kishanganga/Neelum for power generation.

> India and Pakistan have to recognise their common interest in the optimum development of the Indus rivers system

However, the court stated that India has to maintain a minimum flow of water in the Kishanganga/Neelum river to nine cusecs (cubic metre of water per second).

After the CoA's judgment, the two countries reached an amicable resolution on only one out of four issues that were expected to be resolved. Despite several rounds of talks between the Indus Water Commissioners, Delhi and Islamabad could not resolve the other three matters relating to pondage and spillway configuration. Consequently, Pakistan went to the World Bank accusing India of violating the IWT and the court's verdict. Islamabad also raised objections to the Ratle project.

In 2016, Pakistan requested the World Bank to form a CoA. To this, India requested a neutral expert be appointed to deal with the dispute. At that time, the World Bank paused the works on the Kishanganga and Ratle projects "to allow the two countries to consider alternative ways to resolve their disagreements". Despite the pause, works on the Kishanganga continued, and, in 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kishanganga project. A day before Mr. Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir, at least nine people were killed on both sides of the border in firing by security officials from the two sides. Pakistan raised its concerns with the World Bank. In October 2022, the World Bank appointed Michel Lino as the neutral expert and Professor Sean Murphy as Chairman of the CoA.

**India's stand**

On July 6, 2023, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, or PCA (chaired by Prof. Murphy), unanimously rejected India's objections and confirmed its competence to consider and resolve the disputes raised by Pakistan. India has been abstaining from participating in the proceedings at the PCA and did not attend the present proceedings as well. On the question of its competence to take up such matters, the PCA, based on its interpretation of paragraph 1 of Annexure G and Article IX of, unanimously said that it is competent to "consider and determine the disputes set forth in Pakistan's Request for Arbitration".

After the PCA made its observations, India said that it cannot be "compelled to recognize or participate in illegal and parallel proceedings not envisaged by the Treaty". India has been participating in the neutral expert's proceedings whose first meeting was held at The Hague on February 27-28; the next meeting is scheduled in September.

**A trust deficit**

In a line of advice to address their disputes over shared waters, an Opinion article in *The Hindu*, "More than court action, revisit the Indus Waters Treaty" (July 20, 2023) observes that more than going to court, the need is to incorporate "equitable and reasonable utilisation" and the "no harm rule" in the IWT. Pragmatically, any such incorporation requires better ties and enduring trust between India and Pakistan. Due to a wide trust deficit between the two countries, there is a remote chance of Pakistan accepting India's request to renegotiate to modify some of the provisions in the IWT.

Second, there is a need to involve local stakeholders also in any negotiation process between India and Pakistan on shared water issues. Also, a joint group comprising technocrats, climate experts, water management professionals, and scientists from both countries can be set up to look at the core of the problem.

Third, to make the IWT work there is a need to explore cooperation arrangements mentioned in Article VII of the IWT. The two countries have to recognise their common interest in the optimum development of the Indus Rivers System.

Finally, as the IWT was signed more than 60 years ago, an amendment or two or some may be needed due to changes in the situation in the Indus River Basin region. However, the provisions of the IWT cannot be modified unilaterally. Hence, any modification requires trust between the two riparian countries.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**The China 'map'**

It is quite disturbing that China has put out a map which lays claim to vast areas of India's northeast as its territory apart from its gratuitous advice that we should not over-read the changes in the map. China seems to be testing India. In 1962, it was to see whether we would rush to the United States for protection. We stood our ground, but in the process, had to face a vastly-equipped PLA. China for all its diplomatic talk sees India as its competitor in the geopolitics of this region. And, as usual, the United States may try to fish in troubled waters. The USSR does not exist as it was and Russia is busy with its troubles. Which means that we have to stand firm and tell China a thing or two.

**B. Ganga Raju,**
Hyderabad

Though it is not unusual for Beijing to do such things, the timing of the act shows the real intent is to belittle India's stature in the eyes of the world. India should observe restraint and act with maturity.

**Dr. D.V.G. Sankara Rao,**
Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh

Whether it is an attempt to "standardise" the names of places in Arunachal Pradesh or make new claims in a map, China does not seem to be shying away from entering 'uncharted territories'. One hopes that at the G-20 Summit, which the Chinese President is anticipated to attend, the Indian Prime Minister clearly asserts India's position.

**A. Venkatasubramanian,**
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

**LPG price cut**

The government's decision to slash LPG prices by ₹200 per cylinder ahead of the poll season is a tribute to the power of the vote! The government could have done this earlier. It has not passed on the benefit of the dip in international crude oil prices. It seems to have become aware that the appeal of Hindutva and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not quite enough to win elections. Normally the BJP is not given to speaking about 'ease of living' and 'increasing happiness within families'. Now it has adopted the phrases in its political messaging.

**G. David Milton,**
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

# Controlling women's sexual autonomy

**Neetika Vishwanath**

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The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, through Clause 69, proposes to criminalise sex which is based on the promise to marry when there was no intention of fulfilling the same. While the clause also covers "deceit"-based sex beyond the promise to marry, the focus here is on cases where there is a promise to marry.

Fundamental questions emerge from the proposed clause. Should criminal law have a role to play in sexual relationships that involve a false promise to marry? What does it mean for how we understand the sexual autonomy of women? It might seem like a women-centric proposal, but Clause 69 is steeped in misogynistic notions about women's sexuality. It casts women as perpetual victims who can be "duped" into having sex, and effectively denies them sexual autonomy. The understanding is that criminal law has to come to the rescue of a woman since the only way for her to reclaim her position in society as a "good woman" is by filing criminal charges against the man unless he agrees to marry her.

**Invisibilising consent**

Criminalising sex based on a promise to marry is not a new proposition; the judiciary has for long interpreted such cases as rape under Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Since a woman's consent to sex is based on a man delivering a future promise to marry her, the breaking of such promises culminates in a rape trial. Despite consent being exclusively defined under Section 375 of the IPC through the 2013 amendments, to date courts rely on the definition of consent under Section 90 of the IPC (consent given under fear or misconception) in these cases. Misconception is seen to exist when the promise is made only to "coax" a woman into sex without any intention of marrying her. The empty nature of the promise retrospectively vitiates the consent leading the man to be guilty of rape. But Section 90 also requires the man to know that consent is being given under misconception. Significantly, however, by proposing an offence separate from rape, Clause 69 throws out the element of knowledge on the part of men as well as women's consent. Irrespective of whether the consent of a woman to sex is actually based on a promise to marry, if such a promise is established to exist and be false, consensual sex can be punished.

It is not difficult to foresee a possibility of misuse of Clause 69 by parents of women when they discover (through her pregnancy or otherwise) that their daughter had premarital sex. At the stage of filing the complaint, it may not matter whether any promise to marry was made at all. Of course, men can eventually be acquitted if women deny the existence of a promise to marry, but this does not preclude arrest and detention in prison for a significant period.

This is not an exaggerated concern, especially when most rape trials are initiated by parents/guardians of women, to restrict their sexual autonomy. Nearly 55% of the rape trials I observed in Lucknow in 2015 for a study fell in this category. Empirical research in other parts of India confirms the existence of these trends. Rape charges are filed by parents/guardians of women against men who elope with the women. Irrespective of their actual age, women are reported as minors. This sets statutory rape charges into motion against their male partners. As a result, many men spend time in prison only for courts to acquit them after finding the women to be adults. In such cases, rape charges arise not as an outcome of lack of consent but because of consent. Cases where there has been a promise to marry follow a similar logic: consensual sex is post-facto framed as a criminal offence if men fail to deliver on their promise of marriage.

**Judicial interpretations**

Judicial interpretations of promise-to-marry cases as rape are also instructive. Courts have been willing to convict for rape only when the promise is false from the start and not necessarily when it is breached. Therefore, it is not considered rape when the promise has been broken for what the court sees as "legitimate" reasons. For instance, according to the Supreme Court, a man cannot be convicted for rape if the promise to marry has been broken because his parents were opposed to the wedlock (*Deelip Singh v. State of Bihar*, 2004). The implicit logic is that there is nothing wrong with a man not fulfilling his promise of marriage without parental consent. Similarly, if a woman has sex with a man from another caste based on a promise to marry, she is aware that marriage was never possible. This means that there was consent to sex irrespective of the promise of marriage (*Uday v. State of Karnataka*, 2003). The underlying basis here is that she should have known that inter-caste marriages are not socially acceptable. In essence, the law does not "protect" women who wish to defy caste and other social hierarchies to marry a man. Arushi Garg's research on promise-to-marry cases in Delhi demonstrates that trial courts closely follow in the footsteps of the Supreme Court.

Promise-to-marry cases also carry the danger of diluting the gravity of sexual violence and strengthening rape myths. While most trials in Lucknow during my fieldwork were elopement cases, a considerable number were an outcome of a broken promise of marriage. It was evident that defence lawyers and police personnel routinely cited promise-to-marry cases as prime examples of women misusing the rape law.

Clause 69 has little to do with punishing sexual violence against women. Instead, it aims at regulating socially prohibited sex. If we are truly committed to the sexual autonomy of women, we must resist the victimhood that Clause 69 looks to assign women.

Clause 69 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has little to do with punishing sexual violence against women. Instead, it aims at regulating socially prohibited sex

# Peril on the high seas

The debate on Katchatheevu is likely to turn intense before the general election

STATE OF PLAY

**S. Ganesan**
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A series of brutal mid-sea attacks by assailants, suspected to be from Sri Lanka, has left fishers in Tamil Nadu seething with anger. The community has been searching for an end to the violence on the high seas, which has remained a threat to their lives and livelihood for about four decades now.

In recent months, Indian fishers venturing into the sea on small fibreglass boats have come under intermittent attacks. Strangely, the attackers have been unidentified persons in civilian clothes. Indian fishers say the assailants usually come on high-speed boats, hem in their fibreglass boats, and assault the fishers with wooden logs, iron rods and other weapons before snatching away their catch, expensive fishing gear, and navigational equipment.

In the latest attacks on August 21 and 22, groups of fishers from Nagapattinam district were assaulted and robbed while they were fishing about 15-22 nautical miles off the Vedaranyam coast. At least 15 of them needed hospitalisation. The assailants came in batches of six to 10 in two or more boats. In another incident, the fishing nets of four Indian fishers were wantonly damaged. A fisherman, who escaped with minor injuries, said the attacks mostly happen during nights after the fishers cast their nets so that they cannot flee quickly.

The Vedaranyam Marine Police have since registered five cases on charges of attempted robbery, dacoity, and attempt to cause death or grievous hurt against 46 unidentified Tamil and Sinhalese-speaking Sri Lankan nationals.




Chief Minister M.K. Stalin wrote a letter to the Minister of External Affairs, S. Jaishankar, drawing his attention to the assault on Indian fishermen, allegedly by "Sri Lankan nationals." Besides asking Mr. Jaishankar to intervene at the earliest and request the Sri Lankan authorities to take decisive action against the assailants, Mr. Stalin also reiterated the need for pursuing diplomatic channels to find a lasting solution to the issue.

The AIADMK, while condemning the attacks, also accused the State government of failing to do enough to protect the interests of the fishing community. The party general secretary, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, called for strengthening the Coastal Security Group of the Police to safeguard the fishers. After a similar attack in February, the State BJP President K. Annamalai too had written to Mr. Jaishankar seeking action.

The decades-old fisheries conflict between India and Sri Lanka has claimed the lives of several fishers from Tamil Nadu. Representatives of fishermen in Tamil Nadu accuse the Sri Lankan Navy of injuring hundreds of fishermen over the years. Talks between the two countries at the government level and fisher level have not resulted in a durable solution. Indian mechanised trawlers continue to face the wrath of the Sri Lankan Navy, as evident from the sporadic arrests of fishermen, for allegedly straying beyond the International Maritime Boundary Line. In July and August, for instance, 15 fishers from Rameswaram and 10 from Akkarapettai were arrested and their boats seized. Though the arrested fishermen are released after court proceedings in Sri Lanka, reclaiming the fishing vessels is a tedious process. Most seized fishing vessels are destroyed by the ravages of time.

Many fishers and politicians believe that retrieving Katchatheevu, an uninhabited and barren 285-acre islet which was ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974, could offer a lasting solution. It is contended that the ceding of the islet, located about 14 nautical miles off Rameswaram, has effectively shrunk the fishing area for Indian fishers.

Mr. Stalin has sought to revive the debate on Katchatheevu by demanding the retrieval of the islet. He had urged the Centre to raise the issue with Sri Lankan president Ranil Wickremesinghe during the latter's visit to New Delhi in July. More recently, while addressing a fishermen conference in Mandapam in Ramanthapuram, he said that retrieving the islet would put a permanent end to the problems of fishermen. He was also at pains to dispel the notion that the DMK was a party to the ceding of the islet. He said that the DMK, in fact, organised agitations against the agreement between India and Sri Lanka and recalled how former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi tabled a special resolution in the Legislative Assembly against the islet being given to Sri Lanka.

As the general election draws closer, the debate is likely to turn intense as the fishing community accounts for a solid vote bank.

# In India, 74% can't afford a healthy diet: UN agency report

While food prices remain relatively low in India, a healthy diet is unaffordable to nearly three-fourth of the people given their low incomes

DATA POINT

**The Hindu Data Team**

The report, 'State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World' (SOFI) 2023, published last month, shows that while the cost of a healthy diet has increased in recent years in India, it is still the lowest among the BRICS nations (including the newly added six countries) and India's neighbours. However, the share of people who are able to afford such a healthy diet is still low: India features at the bottom of that list since income levels are stagnant or going down. SOFI is published by the Food and Agriculture Organization and jointly produced with fellow United Nations agencies.

The Data Point published on Wednesday concluded that the cost of meals in Mumbai rose by 65% in five years, while salaries/wages rose by just 28%-37%. Mumbai was chosen as an exemplar due to the availability of consistent data. Today's analysis takes a broader view by comparing India's numbers with other countries.

In the SOFI report, the cost of a healthy diet is arrived at by looking at the cheapest local food items that meet dietary guidelines. The cost and availability of such food items is averaged from national data. To check if the diet is affordable, its cost is compared to the average income in each country. A diet is considered too expensive if it costs more than 52% of a country's average income. This percentage is based on data showing that people in low-income countries spend about 52% of their income on food. The percentage of people who cannot afford this diet is then calculated by using income distributions within a nation.

**Chart 1** shows the cost of a healthy diet in terms of PPP dollars per person per day in 2021, the latest year with comparable data. For instance, in India, a healthy diet costs 3.066 PPP dollars per person per day, the lowest among the countries considered. PPP stands for 'Purchasing Power Parity'. In simple terms, 1 PPP dollar in the United States should buy the same amount of goods and services as 1 PPP dollar in, say, India or Brazil. The cost of a healthy diet expressed as 'X PPP dollars per person per day' means that it would cost that much per person every day to maintain a healthy diet, accounting for differences in the cost of living between countries.

**Chart 2** shows the share of the population that is unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021. For instance, in India, 74% were not able to afford a healthy diet, the fourth highest share among the nations considered. Charts 1 and 2 show that the cost of a healthy diet in India, though increasing, is still lower than many comparable economies. However, given the poor income levels in India, a healthy diet is still unaffordable to many.

**Chart 3** shows the change in the cost of a healthy diet over the years across regions. Between 2019 (before the COVID-19 pandemic) and 2021, the expense of maintaining a healthy diet increased by almost 9% in Asia – the highest across regions.

**Chart 4** shows the change in the number of people who were unable to afford a healthy diet over the years across regions. Between 2019 and 2021, Asia followed by Africa recorded the highest growth in the number of people who could not afford a healthy diet. The two continents together made up 92% of the worldwide increase. In Asia, South Asia had the highest number of people (1.4 billion) and the highest share (72%) who could not afford a healthy diet. This rate was nearly double the average for the region. In Africa, Eastern and Western Africa together had the most people (712 million) and the highest share (85%) who could not afford a healthy diet.

PHOTO: R. V. MOORTHY

## Not enough on the plate

The data for the charts were sourced from a blog published by the World Bank titled, 'Over 3.1 billion people could not afford a healthy diet in 2021, an increase of 134 million since the start of COVID-19,' and the 'State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2023'

**Chart 1:** The chart shows the cost of a healthy diet in terms of PPP dollars per person per day in 2021, the latest year with comparable data

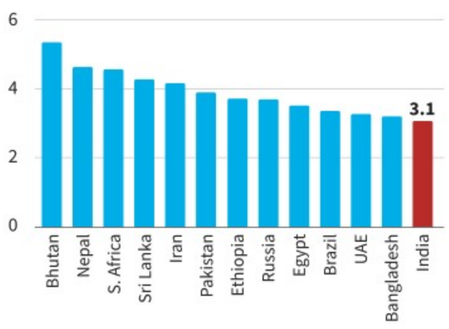



**Chart 2:** The chart shows the share of the population that is unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021. For instance, in India, 74% were not able to afford a healthy diet

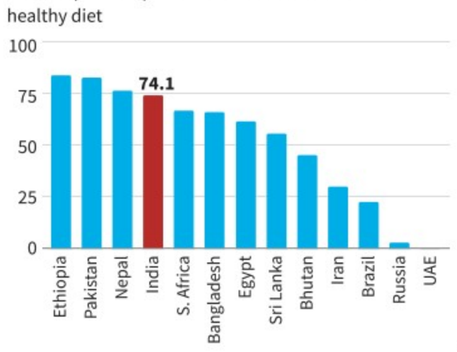



**Chart 3:** The chart shows the change (in %) in the cost of a healthy diet over the years across regions

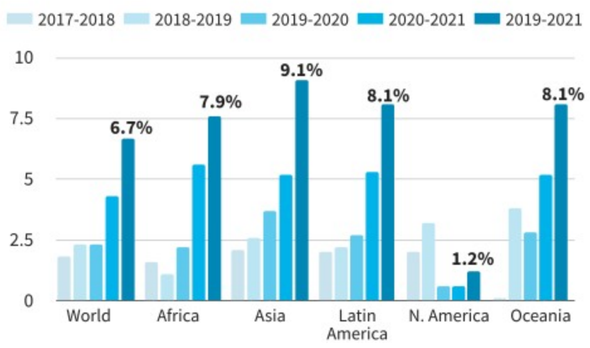
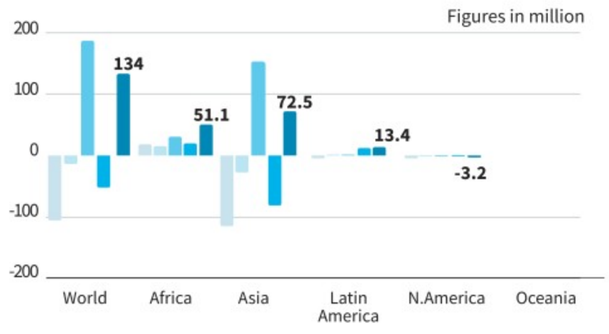



**Chart 4:** The chart shows the change in the number of people (in million) who were unable to afford a healthy diet over the years across regions




FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 31, 1973

## US wanted Bhutto to drop plan to try Bengalis

Washington, Aug. 30: The U.S. has expressed the hope that the three-way agreement reached between India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, involving the resettlement of nearly half a million people of the sub-continent, will prove to be "the model for the solution of similar problems in other areas" of the world. This settlement was conveyed to the Indian Ambassador, Mr. Kaul, here yesterday by the acting U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Kenneth Rush, while officially welcoming the signing of the agreement. Mr. Rush was also appreciative of the fact that a solution in the humanitarian problem had been found by the three nations of the sub-continent themselves, without mediation or interference by countries outside the area. It is, however, now known that the U.S. did urge Mr. Bhutto to reach a compromise settlement with India and Bangladesh – it is learnt, for instance, that in a recent communication to Mr. Bhutto, the U.S. Secretary of State designate, Dr. Henry Kissinger, urged the Pakistan Prime Minister to drop his plan to bring 203 Bengalis held in Pakistan to trial on "treason charges," as a reprisal for the proposed Bangladesh trial of 195 Pakistani POWs. Mr. Bhutto is said to have accepted this suggestion – and thus removed a stumbling block in the talks – in the expectation that this might ensure him a sympathetic hearing when he comes here next month seeking economic aid (which Pakistan now needs more than ever in the wake of the devastation caused by the floods in the Punjab and Sind) and very possibly a removal of the ban on U.S. arms supplies.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 31, 1923

## Cancer research

An important development in cancer research is revealed by Dr. J.A. Murray, Director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, in an article in the "Lancet." It appears that experiments on mice have shown that where cancer has already been artificially produced there is remarkable resistance to attempts to produce a second growth. This is attributed to "the presence of a profound systematic or constitutional 'change' in the individual in whom a malignant growth has developed." What constitutes this resistant state is not yet known.

From Page One

## Karnataka starts releasing water

The water level at the KRS as on Wednesday was 101.58 ft against the full reservoir level of 124.80 ft. The water level on the same day last year was 123.92 ft underlining the paucity of rain in the Cauvery catchment areas.

The gross storage capacity of the KRS is 49.45 tmc ft and the actual storage as on Tuesday was 24.27 tmc ft, as per the records maintained by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC). The gross capacity of the Kabini reservoir is 19.52 tmc ft against which the actual storage on Tuesday was 13.61 tmc ft. The cumulative flow from both the KRS and the Kabini of 5,000 cusecs over 15 days will result in an yield of nearly 6.8 tmc ft to Tamil Nadu.

# Australian government reviews children's custody after death of Indian-origin mother

Activists call for Centre's intervention in child custody cases abroad, to hand over a memorandum to the Australian High Commissioner today; they demand that the children, who were not allowed to attend their mother's funeral in India, be returned to their family at the earliest

**Suhasini Haidar**
**Girish Pattanashetti**
NEW DELHI/HUBBALLI

The Australian government has expressed condolences over the death of Priyadarshini Patil, an Indian-origin engineer who was found dead in Karnataka last week after being upset with the Australian authorities for separating her from her teenage children for the past two years. Officials in Sydney are said to be reviewing the case now, and assessing whether the children's custody can be returned to their father or grandparents.

Activists have highlighted the case's similarities to that of two-year-old Ariha Shah – who was taken away from her parents over allegations of child abuse and is now in the custody of German youth services – and a series of other cases involving Indian children or children of Indian origin. Demanding that the Union government take a more "proactive" role in such cases, a group of activists plans to take out a protest march in Delhi on Thursday, and hand over a memorandum to the Australian High Commissioner, asking that the Patil children, who were not allowed to attend their mother's funeral in India, be returned to their family at the earliest.

Ms. Patil's family says that Amartya Patil, 17, and Aparajita Patil, 23, were removed from their parents' custody in 2021 after they complained about medical negligence at a public children's hospital in Sydney, where Amartya was being treated for a severe illness.

"We are greatly saddened by the death of an Australian woman in India. We offer our deepest condolences to the family during this difficult time," said the Australian High Commission spokesperson in Delhi, adding that the "Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has provided consular assistance to the woman's Australian family."

> The cases were part of a pattern where "Indians and Indian-origin newcomers to rich G-20 countries are persecuted by their child services", due to cultural differences
>
> **SURANYA AIYAR**
> Child rights lawyer

Sources said that the children were now in the "care" of their father, Lingaraj Patil, also an engineer in Australia, though he says he is yet to get physical custody of them. Speaking to *The Hindu* from Sydney, Mr. Patil said that he was contacted by Australian child services officials on Wednesday who said they were carrying out an "assessment" over returning full custody of the children to him, indicating the case has been reviewed.

Along with his father-in-law, Subraya Desai, Mr. Patil has called for the Ministry of External Affairs to intervene in the matter, to allow the children to be restored to the family.

This would require Australia's Department of Community Justice (DCJ) to sign over parental responsibility to either the parent or the grandparents in India.

"As Priyadarshini (now deceased) and I had earlier asked, I requested the officials to carry out the assessment for both myself and the maternal grandparents in India simultaneously so that there is no further delay in resolving the issue of custody," he said, adding that it was the delay in the case that had driven Ms. Patil to take her own life during a visit to her parents in Dharwad.

The Ministry declined to comment on the case. Officials said the fact that the Patil family were all Australian citizens made it more difficult for the Indian government to intervene.

However, child rights lawyer Suranya Aiyar, who has also been advocating on behalf of Ariha Shah's parents, said that the cases were part of a pattern where "Indians and Indian-origin newcomers to rich G-20 countries are persecuted by their child services", due to cultural differences. Ms. Aiyar, who is organising the protest on Thursday, called for the Ministry to negotiate bilateral protocols for the repatriation of children to foster agencies in India, or to extended families, when they are removed from parental custody.

According to Mr. Desai, the case dates back more than a decade, when his grandson Amartya was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, a condition that required his parents to take him for an infusion of intravenous drugs every two months at the Westmead Children's Public Hospital in Sydney. Over seven years of treatment, the Patils grew successively dissatisfied with the progress in the boy's condition and raised a complaint of "medical negligence" against the hospital in 2019, seeking permission to shift him to a private hospital.

However, they were shocked when the DCJ filed a counter-case against them in the Children's Court in 2021 (Case No. 2021/00304854-001), on the grounds that, according to the hospital, they were unfit to take care of their children.

Subsequently, both Amartya and Aparajita were taken into childcare protection. The Patils then began a campaign to have their children's custody restored, including an online petition filed by Ms. Patil that accused the hospital of "corruption"and "forcibly" holding her son. After losing custody of both children, the Patils approached the Indian Consulate in Sydney.

*(Those in distress can seek help and counselling by calling any of the following Karnataka's suicide prevention helpline at 104)*

## Aadhaar-based payment plan for MGNREGS put off again

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

With 41% of job card holders under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) still unprepared for Aadhaar-based wage payments, the Centre has extended the deadline for such payment till the year end. This is the fifth extension so far.

The Rural Development Ministry said on Wednesday that Aadhaar had been seeded and authenticated for 13.34 crore out of a total 14.33 crore active workers, leaving just over one crore, or 18.11% out of the net.

This means that 81.89% of active workers – those who have worked at least one day in the last three financial years – are now eligible for Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS). In fact, in July 2023, about 88.51% of wage payments were made through the ABPS.

The extension, though, was necessitated since out of the 26 crore job card holders under the scheme, 41.1% are still not eligible for this mode, as reported by *The Hindu*.

**'Curbing corruption'**

ABPS uses a worker's unique 12-digit Aadhaar number as their financial address. For ABPS, a worker's Aadhaar details must be seeded to her job card and to her bank account; the worker's Aadhaar must be mapped with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) database; and finally, the bank's institutional identification number (IIN) must itself be mapped with the NPCI database.

The Union government has once again argued that ABPS is the best route to avoid wage payment transactions being rejected due to any change in beneficiary bank accounts. They also maintain that it is the best tool to curb "corruption by weeding out fake beneficiaries."

In its statement, the ministry stressed that no worker will be denied work on the basis of non-availability of Aadhaar number. "If a beneficiary does not demand for work, in such a case her/his status about eligibility for ABPS does not affect the demand for work. Job cards cannot be deleted on the basis of reason that the worker is not eligible for ABPS,"the statement said.

**'Excluding citizens'**

Meanwhile, the Congress demanded that the Narendra Modi-led government must stop its "weaponisation" of Aadhaar. "The Modi government, especially in the case of MGNREGA and soon with pensions and other social welfare benefits, has used it as a weapon to exclude citizens from their guaranteed rights. By making them bear the brunt of its 'experiments with technology', the Modi government has hurt the incomes of the most vulnerable and the poorest of the poor," the party's communications chief and a former Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh said in a statement. The Congress also demanded that open muster rolls should be used and regular social audits done to improve transparency.

Quoting *The Hindu* news report in a letter to Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh, Communist Party of India (Marxist) Polit Bureau member Brinda Karat said that while there is no significant benefit to using the ABPS so far, there is certainly evidence of significant losses for workers.

## Railways to expedite installation of safety systems on passenger trains

**S. Vijay Kumar**
CHENNAI

The Indian Railways will take up expeditious installation of three types of fire safety systems on all types of passenger coaches.

The decision to speed up provision of fire-fighting infrastructure on trains was taken in the second week of August.

According to official sources, the Railway Board has directed the General Managers of all Zonal Railways to expeditiously complete the process of providing fire and smoke detection system in AC coaches, fire detection and suppression system in pantry cars and power cars and fire extinguishers in non-AC coaches.

Asked whether the ill-fated tourist coach that went up in flames in Madurai killing nine persons was fitted with fire extinguishers, a senior official of Southern Railway said the Commissioner of Railway Safety was investigating the circumstances that led to the incident and also the response system.

**Burnt to ashes:** The site of fire at the Madurai railway yard. Officials say it is not clear if the coach had fire extinguishers. G. MOORTHY

"It is not clear whether the coach had fire extinguishers. Going by preliminary reports, the shunting staff on noticing the fire emanating from the coach tried to put it out by using fire extinguishers kept in the shunting engine [locomotive]. But the fire was too big to be contained using hand-held extinguishers...four water lorries were deployed to douse the flames triggered by a suspected cylinder blast," the official who did not want to be quoted said.

**Safety check**

Parrying questions on whether there was any negligence on the part of the shunting staff in moving the coach with passengers on board to the yard where there were no amenities, the officer said the immediate focus of the investigation was to find out how the LPG cylinder was brought on board for cooking purposes without being noticed by railway officials though the coach was subjected to a safety check on two occasions.

Sources in Southern Railway said the Chairman, Railway Board and Chief Executive Officers had called for averting situations where vulnerabilities in infrastructure or negligence of railway staff could cause injury to, or death of, any person.

"We should be alert about the possibility of any location on Indian Railway premises getting hazardous where people can get injured. The safety related issues specifically arising out of rains and waterlogging, in colonies, worksites and circulating areas must be addressed," the Chairman of Railway Board was quoted as saying.

## Violence continues in Manipur, seven more persons injured

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**Mortars, automatic weapons were being used by the groups in hills and valleys to fire at each other**

The situation remained tense in areas bordering the Churachandpur-Bishnupur districts of Manipur for the second consecutive day on Wednesday as seven more persons were injured in a gunfight between two groups. The injured include two Indian Reserve Battalion jawans, who sustained splinter injuries.

A day ago, two men were killed, and eight others were injured in a fresh round of violence at Khoirentak in the same area.

A defence source said mortars and automatic weapons were being used by the groups in the hills and valleys to fire at each other. While the hill district of Churachandpur is Kuki-Zo dominated, Bishnupur in the valley is Meitei dominated. The inter-district boundary or the "buffer zone" has seen frequent clashes between the two communities since ethnic violence erupted.

Four persons from the hills and one person from the valley were injured in the heavy exchange of fire reported on Wednesday.

On August 3, a police armoury was looted in Bishnupur. Since the violence began, more than 4,000 weapons and lakhs of rounds of ammunition have been looted from police armouries in Manipur.

The source said that the Indian Army and other Central security forces had been deployed in the area, and meetings were being held with civil society groups.

## More parties joining INDIA ranks, Pawar says on eve of meet

**Sobhana K. Nair**
MUMBAI

Striking a jubilant note on the eve of their third meeting to be held on Thursday, the leaders of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) claimed that their numbers were growing and that many more parties were lining up to join their ranks. They, however, made it clear that admission would be regulated on the basis of consensus among the existing partners.

In Patna, where the Opposition coalition met for the first time in June, there were 15 parties, which grew to 26 at their second meeting in Bengaluru in July. Now, in Mumbai, two more Maharashtra-based parties are set to join the INDIA bloc. One of the new joinees is the Peasants and Workers Party, whose president Jayant Patil shared the stage with the Maha Vikas Agadi (MVA) coalition partners – Nationalist Congress Party patriarch Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray, and Ashok Chavan of the Congress – at a joint press conference.

## CJI asks if President could override recommendation on Article 370 abrogation

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has asked the Centre if the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir could have ever stopped the President of India from abrogating Article 370.

"If the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir had recommended to the President not to abrogate Article 370, was it open for the President to override the advice," Chief Justice Chandrachud, heading a Constitution Bench, asked Attorney-General R. Venkataramani on Tuesday.

Article 370 empowers the President to abrogate it, but not before seeking and getting the "recommendation" of the Constituent Assembly. The proviso to Article 370(3) underscores that the recommendation "shall be necessary before the President issues a notification" repealing Article 370.

Justice Chandrachud speaks during a hearing challenging the abrogation of Article 370.

Mr. Venkataramani said that the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly was merely "advice", and not binding on the President. The abrogation of Article 370 was to achieve the goal of complete national integration. Nothing could stop the President from doing it. "The Constituent Assembly has only a minimal role," he said.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta asked how the President could be dependent on the opinion of a "body outside the Constitution of India".

However, the Chief Justice said that the requirement of the Constituent Assembly's recommendation could not be brushed aside, noting that Article 370 gave categorical recognition, if not constitutional status, to the Constituent Assembly. "Therefore to say that this recommendation of the Constituent Assembly was only an opinion and not binding on the President may not be right," the CJI observed.

## Energy ties between India, Russia to increase this year, says Moscow's trade chief

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
NEW DELHI

Marking the 70th anniversary of commercial ties, Russia and India will launch major energy initiatives and a business club to connect big business houses on both sides more closely, Russian Trade Commissioner Alexander Rybas has said.

In a written interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Rybas, who is the highest ranking Russian trade representative in India, said withdrawal of western companies from Russia had opened opportunities for Indian pharmaceutical, energy, and food industries in Russia and that the fertilizer sector was one of the priorities for both sides.

"This year, further petrochemical conversion will be launched at Nayara Energy, which has a Russian share. In our case, in the context of the development of Russian-Indian business relations, against the background of the withdrawal of some Western companies from the Russian market, prospects are opening up for Indian businesses to occupy vacant niches in various industries, including oil production, pharmaceuticals, chemical and food industries, diamond-cutting industry and other sectors," Mr. Rybas said, highlighting that Indian investments in Russia at present exceeded $14 billion and "continues to rise".

Alexander Rybas

While India-Russia energy trade has increased since the beginning of the Ukraine war in 2022, the business environment between the two countries was also shadowed by the prospects of western sanctions.

Mr. Rybas dismissed the possibility that western sanctions could hurt bilateral business between Russia and India and observed that the it had in fact opened an area of opportunity between Indian and Russian industrial sectors.

He also argued that the diamond sector of India had not been affected by the sanctions on the Russian diamond industry.

# Indians more likely to believe nation's influence is growing: Pew survey

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

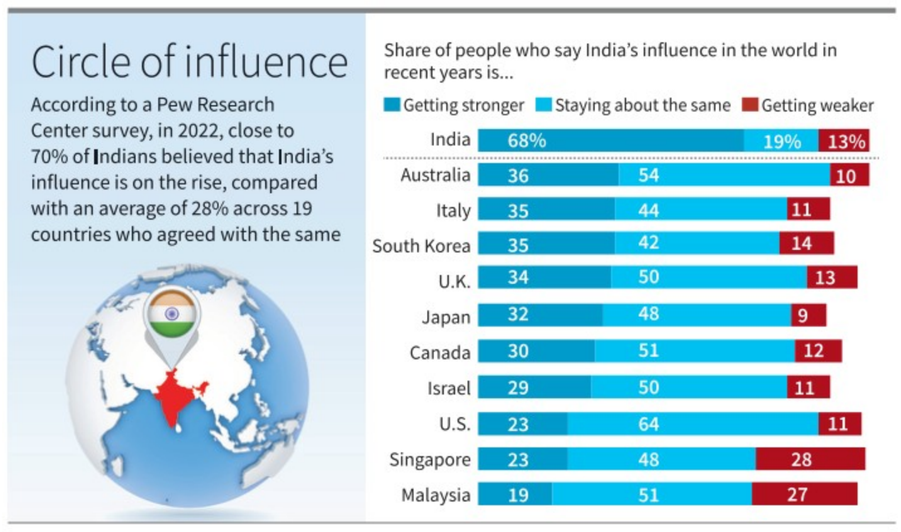
India enjoyed a positive image across 23 countries, with a median of 46% adults holding a favourable view of India, while a median of 34% held unfavourable views, according to an international survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, a Washington DC-based fact tank.

The report, released ahead of the gathering of world leaders for the G-20 Summit in India in September, pointed to a variance between how Indians perceived Prime Minister Narendra Modi and India's influence, and the views of adults in other countries. For instance, 79% of Indian respondents had a favourable view of Mr. Modi, with a majority 55% having a "very" favourable view. In contrast, in other countries, a median of 37% reported having confidence in Mr. Modi. Kenyans had the highest faith in Mr. Modi, with 60% saying they trusted him to do the right thing regarding world affairs, while only 12% in Argentina said they had confidence in the Indian Prime Minister.

### Not a familiar figure

The report also detailed how outside India, substantial respondents in many countries did not offer an opinion on India or Mr. Modi, with 40% of U.S. adults surveyed saying they had never heard of Mr. Modi.

Among Americans who had heard of him, "The prevailing sentiment is negative: 37% have little or no confidence in his ability to do the right thing regarding world affairs, compared with 21% who are confident in him."


Circle of influence
According to a Pew Research Center survey, in 2022, close to 70% of Indians believed that India's influence is on the rise, compared with an average of 28% across 19 countries who agreed with the same
Share of people who say India's influence in the world in recent years is...
Getting stronger
Staying about the same
Getting weaker
India 68% 19% 13%
Australia 36 54 10
Italy 35 44 11
South Korea 35 42 14
U.K. 34 50 13
Japan 32 48 9
Canada 30 51 12
Israel 29 50 11
U.S. 23 64 11
Singapore 23 48 28
Malaysia 19 51 27

A similar pattern was evident with regard to perceptions of India as a rising power. While seven-in-10 Indians believed their country has recently become more influential, only 28% across 19 countries said the same. Most respondents in these countries believed that "India's influence had not changed much in recent years (48% median)," but only 19% of Indians agreed with this view.

While perceptions of India skewed positive across the 23 countries surveyed, European attitudes toward India have turned negative over time, the report said. Favourable views of India had declined by around 10 percentage points or more in all five European countries where past data was available. The greatest change was seen in France, where only 39% held a favourable view of India now, as compared with 70% in 2008.

Among the key findings, the survey also found that Indians stood out from their cohorts in other countries for their highly favourable views of Russia and Vladimir Putin, and unfavourable views of China. "Whereas a median of only 14% across 22 countries have a positive view of Russia, a 57% majority of Indians see Russia favourably," the report noted. When it came to China, India was "the only middle-income country surveyed where a majority has unfavourable views of China". In contrast, the U.S. was seen more favourably in India (65%) than in many of the countries surveyed.

### View next door

One continuing trend from previous surveys was the persistence of negative attitudes toward Pakistan in India. The survey found that around 75% of Indian adults held unfavourable views about Pakistan, with 57% holding a 'very' unfavourable opinion. This pattern has held since 2013, with unfavourable views of Pakistan never dipping below 60%, the report observed.

Interestingly, while the Prime Minister emerged as the politician who commanded the highest percentage (80%) of favourable views within India, 60% of Indians saw Rahul Gandhi in a favourable light while 34% viewed him unfavourably.

The Pew Center report is based on a nationally representative survey of 2,611 adults in India, 3,756 American adults, and 24,674 adults in other countries from Asia, Europe, Australia, Africa, North America and Latin America. The surveys were conducted during February-May 2023.

# PM should speak on Chinese incursions, says Rahul Gandhi

Congress leader says the new map published by China is a serious issue, adds that neighbouring country has already taken over Indian land

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

A day after India dismissed as "absurd" the new official map of China that includes Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speak on the issue of Chinese incursion.

Mr. Gandhi was interacting with the media at the airport before leaving for Karnataka. He targeted Mr. Modi on the issue of the map.

"I have been saying this for years now that the Prime Minister's claim that not an inch of land has been taken away from Ladakh is a complete lie. I have just come back from Ladakh and all of Ladakh knows that China has usurped our land," Mr. Gandhi said.

> I have been saying this for years now that the Prime Minister's claim that not an inch of land has been taken away from Ladakh is a complete lie
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Congress leader

"The map is a very serious issue, but they have already taken land. The Prime Minister should speak about it," he added.

On Monday, China officially released the 2023 edition of its "standard map" incorporating Arunachal Pradesh, the Aksai Chin region, Taiwan and the South China Sea.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday called China a "habitual offender". "We hope that the G-20 summit in India, will be another opportunity for us to expose the issue of China's transgressions into Indian territory at the global stage," Mr. Kharge said.

# Rahul's allegations on land grab by China baseless, says Pralhad

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**Union Minister says External Affairs Ministry has already condemned China's action on the issue**

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday termed "baseless" Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations that China had grabbed India's sovereign territory in Ladakh.

Mr. Joshi said Mr. Gandhi "should understand" that "whatever land that China had grabbed was during the tenure of Jawaharlal Nehru [as Prime Minister]".

"They are doing some activities in the area that was grabbed during Nehru's tenure as Prime Minister. This is due to the sins committed by the Congress after Independence that China had become our neighbour. From the time it was Tibet till today, these people pursued policies which led to this," he said.

Mr. Gandhi, he said, "does not have any understanding" of the policies.

Mr. Joshi was reacting to Mr. Gandhi's remarks that China releasing a "standard map" that laid claim over Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin was "very serious" and that China had already claimed land in parts of Ladakh.

"Our External Affairs Ministry has already condemned China's action on the map issue and has also strongly protested it. But he [Mr. Gandhi] does not trust our External Affairs Ministry. He believes in what China says," the Union Minister said.

India on Tuesday had lodged a strong protest with China over its "standard map" and asserted that such steps "only complicate the resolution of the boundary question".

# Lok Sabha Speaker revokes Adhir's suspension after Privilege panel's resolution

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday revoked the suspension of Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury from the Lower House.

The decision was taken hours after the Lok Sabha's Privileges Committee, headed by BJP MP Sunil Kumar Singh, unanimously recommended that the Speaker revoke the suspension of Mr. Chowdhury. The Lok Sabha Secretariat issued a circular announcing the decision.

"The suspension of Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, MP, from the service of the House which was effected on August 10 till the submission of the report by the Committee of Privileges, has been revoked with effect from August 30," the circular said.

Mr. Chowdhury was under suspension over remarks he made about Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a speech in Parliament.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

He appeared before the panel on Wednesday, and said his remarks were not aimed at hurting anyone and the Hindi dialect he used might have caused the issue.

### Panel resolution

A panel member told *The Hindu* that the committee also adopted a resolution on the matter.

"We heard Mr. Chowdhury in connection with the motion adopted by the House on August 10. We recommended that the Speaker revoke his suspension from the service of the House," the member said on the condition of anonymity.

It is learnt that Mr. Chowdhury told the House that he used the Hindi dialect commonly spoken in West Bengal and meanings of certain words may have been misunderstood. He told the House that his mother tongue is Bengali and he may not have conveyed what he wanted while speaking in Hindi in the House.

"Mr. Chowdhury told us that he did not want to hurt anyone's sentiments. The committee unanimously decided to recommend that his suspension and other disciplinary proceedings following the suspension could be immediately revoked," another member said.

# BSP to go solo for 2024 Lok Sabha polls, no tie-up with INDIA or NDA, says Mayawati

**The Hindu Bureau**
LUCKNOW

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) will fight the 2024 Lok Sabha election alone, though several parties are eager for an alliance with it, party president Mayawati said on Wednesday.

The BSP leader described the parties of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) as "anti-poor, casteist, communal and capitalist".

She added that her party would offer an alternative to the people. The statement holds significance as it comes ahead of a two-day meeting of the INDIA bloc in Mumbai on August 31 and September 1.

"NDA and INDIA alliance are mostly parties with anti-poor casteist, communal, pro-capitalist policies against which the BSP is continuously struggling and that is why the question of contesting elections in alliance with them does not arise. Hence appeal to the media: no fake news please. The BSP, like in 2007, will single-handedly contest the upcoming Lok Sabha and four State Assembly general elections by uniting crores of neglected/scattered society on the basis of mutual brotherhood. Media should not spread misconceptions again and again," wrote Ms. Mayawati, on X (formerly Twitter).

The four-time former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister targeted the Opposition bloc INDIA for alleging that the BSP was colluding with the BJP.

"Although everyone is eager for an alliance with the BSP, but for not doing so, the Opposition alleges collusion with the BJP like a cat scratching a pole. If you join them, then you are secular, if you don't join them, then you are with the BJP. This is grossly unfair and is just like the saying, 'grapes are sour,'" Ms. Mayawati said.

**ANDHRA PRADESH MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
2nd Floor, Plot No.9, Survey No.49, IT Park, Mangalagiri-522503.
email : aphmhidc@gmail.com & ed.apmsidc16@gmail.com
**Tender Notice No.5/APMSIDC/2023-24, Dated: 30-08-2023**
APMSIDC invites tenders through e-procurement platform (**https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**) for **Equipment Wing: 1)** Identification of vendor for printing and delivery of Aarogyasri Awareness Brochures in A.P.
DIPR 2312PP/CL, Dt: 30-08-2023 **Sd/- Managing Director**

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**
**Revenue Department**
Rc.No.F3/215/2023/AD, CSO, Dt.30.08.2023
1) **Name of work :** Supply of 1,000 Textile banner cloth Rolls for Resurvey. 2) Opening date & time for sale of Bid Tender document: **31-08-2023 @ 10.00 AM.** 3) Closing date & time for sale of Bid tender document: **20.09.2023 @ 5.00 PM.** 4) Time and date of Pre-Bid meeting: **07-09-2023 @ 11.30 AM.** 5) Last date & time for filling tenders: **20-09-2023 @ 5.00 PM.** 6) Bid open date & time: **20-09-2023 @ 5.30 PM.** 7) For online downloading / submission of bids visit : **www.apeprocurement.in** **https:gem.gov.in** 8) For detailed tender notification visit: **www.ccla.ap.gov.in/ccla**
DIPR 2310PP/CL, Dt: 30-08-2023 **Sd/- Commissioner of Survey, Settlement and Land Records, AP, Vijayawada.**

**TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED**
**TENDER NOTICE**
The APTRANSCO invites on-line bids for Spec No.PMM21-e-32/2023 for "Supply of 2 Nos. 315 MVA, 400/132/33kV, 3 phase Auto Transformers" required at 400 kV Substations. Date and time of availability of tenders **31-08-2023 by 17:00 Hrs.** Further details can be seen in website(s): **www.eprocurement.gov.in** For further details Contact Nos. **0866-2429230,** Extn **2031, 2041, 2034.**
DIPR 2306PP/CL, Dt: 30-08-2023 **Sd/- Chief Engineer / Transmission**

**P.V. NARSIMHA RAO TELANGANA VETERINARY UNIVERSITY**
Administrative Office, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030
**Advt.No.01/RC/2023, Dated.29.08.2023**
**FACULTY RECRUITMENT (Veterinary)**
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the posts of **Assistant professor** (56) and **Associate Professor** (28) in the Faculty of Veterinary Science. For details of vacancies, rule of reservation, qualifications, registration fee, application form etc. log on to: http: // **tsvu.edu.in.** Filled in applications should reach the Registrar, P. V. Narsimha Rao Telangana Veterinary University, Administrative Office, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad- 500 030 (TS) on or before **30.09.2023** by 4.30 p.m.
Phone No. 040 - 24002114 **Prof. M. GNANA PRAKASH** REGISTRAR
DIPR No : 598-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU**
**HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT**
TIRUVANNAMALAI HIGHWAYS,(CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE
**TENDER NOTICE**
**T.N. No. 29 / 2023-24/HDO/Dated. 29.08.2023**
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Schedule Tender in Two Cover system through online only** will be received upto **19.09.2023 / 12.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Tiruvannamalai Circle for **CRIDP - 2023-24, Construction of High Level Bridge connecting Kangeyanallur to Sathuvachari village across Palar river** pertaining Vellore (H) **C&M Division .**
Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **01.09.2023** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.
DIPR/4795/Tender/2023 **Superintending Engineer (H), C&M Circle, Tiruvannamalai.**

**CSIR - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY**
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
HYDERABAD - 500007.
**WALK-IN-INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION NO. 12/2023**
CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad conducting Walk-in-Interviews on 06th Sep, 2023 for the positions of Project Staff having qualifications of MSc (Chemistry / Polymer Science / Medicinal Chemistry / Analytical Chemistry / Food & Nutrition / Microbiology / Organic Chemistry / Agricultural Entomology / Zoology) / M.Pharmacy / MS in Medicinal Chemistry / M.Tech (Chem. Engg) / B.Tech (Chem / Civil / Mechanical / EE / Safety Engg) / BSc in Science etc.
For full details visit our website **www.iictindia.org** **Sd/- Controller of Administration**

**The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited**
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Registered & Corporate Office : Bidyut Unnayan Bhaban
Plot No.: 3/C, LA - Block, Sector- III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106
**Notice Inviting E-Tender**
Ref No.: WBPDCL / Tend-Adv/23-24/CORP/CC-599 Date: 29.08.2023
NIT No.: WBPDCL/CORP/NIT/E1755/23-24 Dated : 22.08.2023
"Providing Security Service for guarding the properties/premises and other security related jobs at Bandel Thermal Power Station (BTPS), WBPDCL".
NIT Document Download Start Date / End Date : 01.09.2023 at 03.00 P.M./22.09.2023 till 03.00 P.M. **Contact Person: For Trade related enquiry: 1)** Arpita Goswami, Manager (M&C), Corporate. **Contact No.:** 9830287628. **E-mail:** a.goswami@wbpdcl.co.in (for sending pre-bid queries). **2).** Jyotibrata Majumder, Sr. Manager (HR & A), Corporate. **Contact No.:** 8336903994. **E-mail:** jmajumder@wbpdcl.co.in (for sending pre-bid queries). For details please visit: **https:// wbtenders.gov.in** ICA- T17851(3)/2023

**कार्यालय नगर निगम जोधपुर उत्तर**
(नगर निगम भवन, पोलोटेक्निक कॉलेज परिसर, रेजीडेन्सी रोड, जोधपुर)
(nnjnorth@gmail.com Tel: 0291-2651483)
क्रमांकः— 3996 दिनांकः— 25.08.2023
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**UBN NO. DLB2324WSOB17976**
राज.संवाद / सी / 23 / 8380 आयुक्त

**NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE COASTAL MANAGEMENT (NCSCM)**
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**Advt. No : HR 02 / 2023**
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| No | Name of the Post | No. of Posts |
|---|---|---|
| | **ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION** | |
| 1 | Manager (Admin / HR) | 1 |

**Director, NCSCM**

**राजस्थान राज्य वन विकास निगम लिमिटेड**
कार्यालय महाप्रबन्धक, केन्द्रीय कार्यालय झुन्झुनूं
क्रमांक :- एफ ( )लेखा- निविदा/RSFDCL/2022-23/1007 दिनांक :- 23/08/2023
**E-Notice Inviting Bid 01/2023-24**
Bids For Felling Tree, Transpotion And Lot Creation of Wood are Invited From Interested Bidders From 25.08.2023 (1:00 PM ) to 15.09.2023 (4:00 PM). Other particulars of the Bid may be seen by visiting the procurement portal **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** & **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** Websites. The approximate Value of the Procurement is Rs.613.00 Lakhs. **NIB Code : FOR2324A0472, UBN Code : FOR2324WLOB00560**
Raj.Samwad/C/23/8321 General Manager

**RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED**
**N.I.T. No. 16/2023-24**
Tenders are invited from reputed contractors registered in appropriate class with RRVPNL and A & AA class in Central/State Govt. Department and their undertakings and registered in GST department for the bid S.No. 1 of NIT 16 under Executive Engineer(Civil) Chittorgarh. All details of above NIB are available on website **www.rvpn.co.in** & **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** or **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**. **UBN No. VPN2324WSOB01275**
Raj.Samwad/C/23/8331 RRVPN/TR-6001/2023 **Superintending Engineer (Civil), Udaipur**

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD CIRCLE, JALORE**
NO. SE/JALORE/2023-24/1368 Dated : 21-08-2023
**Short Term Notice Inviting Bid 14/2023-24**
**NIB No. PWD2324A2428**
Bids for Construction of Bridge under Budget Announcement 2023-24 are invited for interested bidders from 9.30 am 22 Aug 2023 to 6.00 pm 31 Aug 2023. Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 627.50 lacs.
**NIB No. PWD2324A2428**

| Sr.No. | UBN: |
|---|---|
| 1 | PWD2324WSOB10936 |
| 2 | PWD2324WSOB10939 |
| 3 | PWD2324WSOB10942 |

**(Jailal Meena) Superintending Engineer PWD Circle, Jalore**
DIPR/C/12534

**OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD, ZONE BIKANER**
No:-1643 Dt.:-21-08-2023
**NIB CODE:-PWD2324A2424**
**Short Term NIB No. 24/2023-24**
Bid for 01 No. work Under CM Announcement Year 2023-24 R U B work Sanctioned are invited from interested bidders upto 12.00 PM dt. 01.09.2023 (Friday) Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and DIPR department website. The approximate values of the procurement is Rs. **517.87 Lakhs**.
**UBN Code No. PWD2324WLOB10914**
DIPR/C/12713 **Addl. Chief Engineer, PWD, Zone Bikaner**

## INBRIEF

### DGCA carrying out technical evaluation of 2 IndiGo planes

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), in close coordination with IndiGo, is carrying out the "technical evaluation" of the engine issues faced by two aircraft of the airline on Tuesday, according to an official. Two flights of IndiGo, one from Kolkata to Bengaluru and another from Madurai to Mumbai, suffered engine snags on Tuesday. In a statement, IndiGo said its flight 6E 455 returned to Kolkata after taking off following a technical issue. The pilot followed standard operating procedures and landed back in Kolkata. IndiGo's fleet is powered by Pratt & Whitney engines and a number of aircraft are on the ground. PTI

### Over ₹6 lakh for software to translate court judgments

The Maharashtra government recently sanctioned over ₹6 lakh to purchase a software for translation of the Supreme Court and Bombay High Court judgments from English into Marathi. On August 1, the Eknath Shinde-led government passed a resolution that states a budget of ₹6,47,320 had been approved for purchasing Microsoft family software and Google Translator. The Artificial Intelligence Assistant Legal Translation Committee requested the government to provide the software for the same. The government approved the creation of 300 posts for junior translators and interpreters. The court has also taken the initiative to translate English judgments into Marathi in March 2023.

# Smooth operation of 'LAM' critical to Aditya-L1 success

The ISRO will be using a Liquid Apogee Motor identical to the one used in the Mars and moon missions, says LPSC chief; the motor will be shut down for the best part of the four-month journey

**Tiki Rajwi**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A small but powerful engine going by the acronym 'LAM' will have a critical role to play in the upcoming Aditya-L1 mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to study the sun.

The successful operation of LAM, short for Liquid Apogee Motor, is vital to the ISRO's plans to place the Aditya spacecraft in a halo orbit at Lagrangian Point L1.

**Moving forward:** The rehearsal for the launch of the Aditya-L1 Mission was completed in Sriharikota on Wednesday. ISRO TWITTER

**Tried and trusted**

Developed by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), the ISRO centre for liquid and cryogenic propulsion in Thiruvananthapuram, LAM has played an important role in missions, including the 2014 Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), Mangalyaan, and the more recent Chandrayaan-3.

In simple terms, LAM engines are used for orbital adjustment manoeuvres of satellites and spacecraft in orbit.

For the Aditya-L1 mission, the ISRO will use a LAM identical to the one used in the Mars and moon missions, says LPSC Director V. Narayanan.

Aditya-L1 is the first 'space-based observatory class Indian solar mission to study the sun', the ISRO said.

**Newton thrusters**

The ISRO is planning to launch the mission using a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-XL) on September 2.

Once the Aditya spacecraft exits the earth's sphere of influence and heads toward its destination – the Lagrangian Point L1 which is 1.5 million km away – the LAM will shut down for the best part of the four-month journey.

The propulsion system of the spacecraft comprises the 440 Newton LAM engine plus eight 22 Newton thrusters and four 10 Newton thrusters which will be intermittently fired.

The thrusters will be used to correct the orientation of the spacecraft as it traverses the vast emptiness of space.

The big challenge before the ISRO is restarting LAM at the precise moment for 'braking' the spacecraft as it closes in on its destination and nudging it into the desired halo orbit at L1.

During the Mangalyaan mission, this critical manoeuvre, 'waking' the LAM engine after an extended 'hibernation', had given ISRO scientists nail-biting moments.

**Identical, yet different**

"The propulsion module system on Aditya-L1 is identical to the one used on Chandrayaan-3. The LAM engine is similar. Its propellant combination (mono-methyl hydrazine (MMH) and MON3 (MON, short for mixed oxides of nitrogen) too is the same. Its volume is different, hence propellant tank sizes are also different," says Dr. Narayanan.

About 1.5 million kilometres from the earth between it and the sun is L1, one of the five Lagrangian points or 'equilibrium points' in the sun-earth system.

The Aditya spacecraft is to be placed in a halo orbit at this vantage point in space to carry out studies with its seven scientific payloads.

# Coronagraph of Aditya-L1 will send 1,440 images of sun

**Hemanth C.S.**
BENGALURU

**The VELC will be able to observe the corona from Lagrange Point 1 of the sun-earth system**

The Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC), the primary payload on board India's first dedicated scientific mission, Aditya-L1, to study the sun, will be sending 1,440 images of the sun every day to ground stations. The VELC, developed by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, will be able to observe the corona continuously from the Lagrange Point 1 (L1) of the sun-earth system, which is about 1.5 million km from the earth.

Aditya-L1 is scheduled to be launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 11.50 a.m. on Saturday.

"Though Aditya-L1 mission will be launched on September 2, there will be a cruise phase of 100-plus days before it reaches the L1 point. Once it reaches that point, the doors will be open from most likely from the first week of January 2024 and we will make continuous observations for using the VELC payload," Ramesh R., principal investigator of the VELC payload, told *The Hindu*. Professor Ramesh added that the VELC payload would be sending 1,440 images of the sun in a day.

"With so much data, the ground segment should be ready to process these images in real time and within a turnaround time of 24 hours these should be sent back to ISRO so that the data are disseminated to the scientific community and the public," he said.

"We need tremendous computing power for which the IIA is ready and all the software are being tested so that with the minimum overlap time the data from the spacecraft will be downloaded at the Indian Deep Space Network in Byalalu from where they will process the L0 data [Level 0] data and send them to the payload operations centre in the IIA which will be processed within 24 hours and sent back to the Indian Space Science Data Centre for dissemination," Professor Ramesh said. There will be six other payloads on board the Aditya-L1, whose mission life is five years.

# G-20 must help deal with glaring inequities revealed by the pandemic, says WHO envoy

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**
NEW DELHI

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed a "glaring inequity" of access to vaccines and treatments, which must be bridged before another such outbreak hits the world, says Ayoade Alakija, a global leader in the field of pandemic preparedness and response, co-chair of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, and World Health Organization (WHO) special envoy.

She adds that the G-20 should help develop a "new global playbook" that will facilitate regional self-sufficiency and equitable allocation and access.

Dr. Alakija, who participated in the recently concluded G-20 Health Ministers' meeting in Gandhinagar, spoke to *The Hindu* here on Wednesday about the lessons learnt from COVID-19 and the preparations needed to tackle a future pandemic.

> While some regions surged ahead with vaccinations and treatments, others were left waiting. This glaring inequity serves as a profound lesson
>
> **AYOADE ALAKIJA**
> WHO envoy

**Emerging disparity**

Stating that equitable access to healthcare remains an issue of importance, she said: "The COVID-19 pandemic, despite its many challenges, has illuminated the resilience and adaptability of the global scientific community. Within an almost unbelievably short timeframe, we witnessed the coming together of researchers, medical experts, and institutions. Together, they pushed boundaries, producing not just vaccines but also diagnostics and therapeutics that would typically have taken years to develop. This unprecedented collaboration is a testament to what humanity can achieve when united by a common purpose."

She added that amid these advancements during COVID-19, a stark disparity had also emerged. "Where we failed was access, and this is where we must learn the lessons ahead of a next pandemic," Dr. Alakija said.

"While some regions surged ahead with vaccinations and treatments, others were left waiting. This glaring inequity serves as a profound lesson. As we look to the future and the potential of new health challenges, we must vow to never let access be the barrier that divides our global community," she said.

Accountability, inclusion, and solidarity are the key lessons that the Indian healthcare system taught the world and that is also the most significant takeaway from the G-20 health meetings, she said. She added that India had not only invited countries, but had also ensured that their voices were heard and that a democratic consensus was built about the health road map for the future.

Highlighting the significance of the G-20 meetings, she said: "The world has been given a clear mandate to establish a new platform for the development, production and delivery of medical countermeasures. This isn't just about innovation; it's about ensuring that every step – from idea to delivery – serves every corner of our global family."

Dr. Alakija lauded India's initiative in developing the promise of digital advancement, with the launch of the WHO Global Initiative on Global Health as part of its G-20 presidency. "India has set an exemplary standard, harnessing the promise of digital health. The launch of the WHO digital health network during its G-20 Presidency isn't just a step – it's a leap," she said.

# Green court directs BRO to plant 10,000 trees in Uttarakhand in a month

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to plant at least 10,000 trees within a month in Uttarakhand as part of compensatory tree plantation to make up for hundreds of trees felled during construction of a road from Simli to Gwaldam.

Justice Prakash Shrivastava of the NGT's Principal Bench was hearing a petition which complained about the BRO violating environmental norms while laying a road in the fragile mountains of Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. The NGT in September 2022 formed a joint committee comprising the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the BRO, and the Uttarakhand State Pollution Control Board, and the District Magistrate and the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Chamoli who have been directed to "verify the factual position and take appropriate remedial action in the violation of environmental norms".

The tribunal has called for a joint mechanism of the BRO and the Forest Department

According to the joint committee's report, the BRO did not illegally cut trees during the construction, the Bench noted. There was, however, no clarity in the report about the number of trees planted.

The report said that there had been 17 landslips on the road from Simli to Gwaldam.

The green court noted that a joint mechanism needed to be developed between the BRO and the Forest Department to monitor landslips, assessing damage to vegetation and treating sites with appropriate measures.

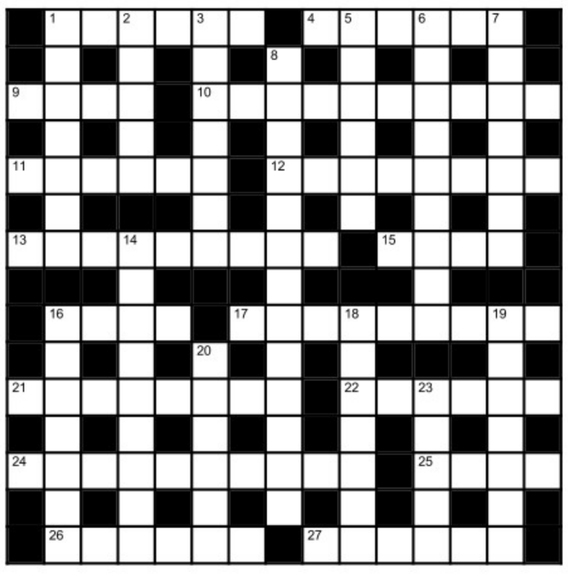
The DFO, Chamoli, was directed to monitor survival of the plantation for three months and report to the NGT.

## TH CROSSWORD + 13958

(set by WrdPlougher)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



**Across**

1 Gives an address to top Nazi bodyguards going around (6)
4 Winner conceding point, essentially to get energy for powerful aim? (6)
9 The article originally stirring enmity (4)
10 Occasion basically honouring friend someday (10)
11 Couch empty threat in speech (without a hint of politeness, compassion, humility), starting to electioneer (6)
12 Drew, Nancy's exposés — "Den's leaders following criminal lout at home" (8)
13 Amy musing about space, where mass is created (9)
15 Constant need to be cut in half like a tree (4)
16 Beat knight, winning fight in the end (4)
17 Saint within right to regularly bear some sort of audience (9)
21 Bond explosive ion later... (8)
22 ... if not, alternatively, burn blue-ish sulphur (6)
24 Saw nightclub, swerved recklessly, losing direction (10)
25 Starting to fall sick, stuff... (4)
26 ... left nose, out of oxygen finally with empty remedies, flops (6)
27 Rubs out errors in speech, insubstantial errors (6)

**Down**

1 People's ownership claim in secret... (7)
2 ... electronic portal, part of programming... (5)
3 ... those who find, perhaps, Dhoni awesome in the middle? (7)
5 Teesta reforming land area (6)
6 Common practice, transferring to another country, forgetting former spouse (9)
7 Dancing free, topless, live free (7)
8 Circling radical (13)
14 Bores gits regularly, going into little details? (9)
16 Important detail briefly disclosed, mainly about rise of AI (7)
18 German guy's article buried by our newspaper, global agency making noise (7)
19 Sleeps around, regularly mulls success (7)
20 Second, place cutlery... (6)
23 ... plates, occasionally eating Indian food, primarily for feelings of happiness (5)

## SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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**Solution to previous puzzle**

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| S | | | | I | | R | | Y | | S | | O | | O |
| C | H | A | N | C | E | | D | | D | E | A | L | E | R |
| E | | N | | S | | A | | O | | A | | | | I |
| N | A | T | O | | S | T | O | R | M | P | R | O | O | F |
| T | | E | | A | | T | | I | | O | | R | | E |
| | G | A | M | B | L | I | N | G | | W | A | G | E | R |
| C | | T | | B | | M | | A | | E | | I | | O |
| U | K | E | L | E | L | E | | M | O | R | C | E | A | U |
| E | | R | | Y | | S | | I | | S | | S | | S |

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 9 |
| 9 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| 6 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| 8 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 1 |

## FAITH

### Power of Gayatri Mantra

The most powerful mantra in the world is the Gayatri mantra. We often hear our acharyas say, *Gayantam trayate yasmatu Gayatri tyabhidhiyate*. It is a very simple phrase with the most profound meaning: whoever recites Gayatri mantra will be able to realise God fully. Reciting Gayatri helps one to meditate deeply on the splendorous image of Bhagawan, resulting in an overflow of love for God and an outpouring of devotion. This will also guide us in taking the path of righteousness and lead a virtuous life, said Thirukudandhai Dr. Venkatesh in a discourse.

The Gayatri mantra is an extant one, brought to the forefront by sage Viswamitra and he is considered the seer of this mantra. It is ordained that one should practice *sandhyavandhanam* three times a day, and chant the Gayatri 1,008 times. If that is not possible, one should recite it at least 108 times. Reciting it 10 times, as an exemption, is permitted only in extreme cases. Gayatri mantra is also a protective shield. Why do our elders say, *Gayatri chantasam matha*? For the simple reason that she is the mother of all mantras. As a mother, she cannot bear it if her child is hungry. This is the reason for holding the *kumara bhojanam* before initiating a new child into *Upanayanam*. This is also a mantra which can be chanted at any time of the day and night.

LONDON

## Ex-GCHQ worker admits trying to murder U.S. govt. employee

AP

Joshua Bowles, 29, a former worker at Britain's signals intelligence agency GCHQ, on Wednesday pleaded guilty to attempted murder after attacking a U.S. government employee in Cheltenham on March 9. Prosecutors said he stabbed her because he believed she "holds views on the work he believes they conduct". AFP

GOMA

## 10 killed in anti-UN peacekeeping protest rally in DR Congo's Goma

AFP

At least 10 people were killed on Wednesday in eastern DR Congo after soldiers attempted to stop a religious sect's planned anti-UN protest. The Christian-animist group known as the "Natural Judaic and Messianic Faith towards the Nations" had demanded departure of UN peacekeepers, a protest rally banned by local authorities. AFP

OKARA

## Floods drown Pak.'s breadbasket, nearly 1.3 lakh people evacuated

AFP

Swathes of Pakistan's breadbasket, the Punjab province, were inundated this month, with at least 1.3 lakh people evacuated, after the Sutlej river burst its banks and spilled over hundreds of villages. More than 175 people were killed in the country in rain-related events since the monsoon began in late June. AFP

TOKYO

## Japan PM eats 'safe' Fukushima fish, days after wastewater dump

AFP

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida ate what he called "safe and delicious" fish from Fukushima on Wednesday, days after wastewater was released from the area's crippled nuclear plant into the Pacific. A video clip published on social media comes after China banned all seafood imports from Japan. AFP

# Rebel soldiers in Gabon claim to have ousted their President

President Ali Bongo Ondimba called on people to 'make noise' to support him, streets in the capital saw crowds singing the national anthem in support of the military coup attempt

**Associated Press**
LIBREVILLE

Mutinous soldiers claimed to have seized power in Gabon on Wednesday and put the President under house arrest, hours after he was declared the winner in an election to extend his family's 55-year rule in the oil-rich Central African nation.

In a video apparently from detention in his residence, President Ali Bongo Ondimba called on people to "make noise" to support him. But crowds instead took to the streets of the capital and sang the national anthem to celebrate the coup attempt against the scion of a dynasty accused of getting rich on the country's resource wealth while many of its citizens struggle to scrape by.

"Thank you, Army. Finally, we've been waiting a long time for this moment," said Yollande Okomo, standing in front of soldiers from Gabon's elite republican guard.

**Taste of freedom:** People celebrating after a coup attempt against President Ali Bongo's regime, in Libreville on Wednesday. AFP

Mr. Bongo has served two terms since coming to power in 2009 after the death of his father, who ruled the country for 41 years. Several members of the family are under investigation in France, and some face preliminary charges of embezzlement, money laundering and other forms of corruption, according to French media reports. There's been widespread discontent with the Bongo family for years, said Maja Bovcon, senior analyst at Verisk Maplecroft, a risk assessment firm.

But she said more immediate inspiration likely came from a recent spate of coups in the Sahel region of Africa where military officers have shown that they can seize power without repercussions.

Early on Wednesday, Mr. Bongo was declared winner of an election criticised by international observers. Within minutes of the announcement, gunfire was heard in the centre of the capital, Libreville. Later, a dozen uniformed soldiers appeared on state television and announced that they had seized power.

Gabon is a member of OPEC, with a production of some 1,81,000 barrels of crude a day, but its over 2 million people face high unemployment and rising prices. Nearly 40% of Gabonese aged 15-24 were out of work in 2020, according to the World Bank.

The soldiers who claimed power Wednesday planned to "dissolve all institutions of the republic," said a spokesperson for the group. He said that Mr. Bongo's "unpredictable, irresponsible governance" risked leading the country into chaos. The coup attempt came about one month after mutinous soldiers in Niger seized power from the democratically elected government.

## Protest in Bangladesh over 'enforced abductions'

**Agence France-Presse**
DHAKA

Thousands of Bangladeshi protesters marched on Wednesday demanding information on hundreds of people they say security forces have abducted during PM Sheikh Hasina's nearly 15 years in power.

Opposition supporters of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its allies joined families of those missing to mark the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, many with black gags over their mouths. The government denies the allegations of disappearances and extrajudicial killings, saying some of those reported missing drowned in the Mediterranean while trying to reach Europe.

# Russia says Ukraine drones struck deep into its territory

**Associated Press**
KYIV

Ukraine sent waves of drones deep into western Russia in nighttime attacks that lasted more than four hours and struck military assets, Russian officials and media reports said on Wednesday.

The drones hit an airport near Russia's border with Estonia and Latvia, causing a huge blaze and damaging four Il-76 military transport planes, which can carry heavy machinery and troops, Russian state news agency *TASS* reported, citing emergency officials.

With at least six regions of Russia targeted, the barrage appeared to be the most extensive Ukrainian drone attack on Russian soil since the war began 18 months ago. The Kremlin has repeatedly accused the Ukrainian military of cross-border incursions on the Belgorod region of Russia and of launching drones toward Moscow.

**Fleet attack:** Smoke billowing in Pskov, on Tuesday, which Moscow officials accuse of being the biggest drone strike on Russian soil. AP

There was no immediate comment from Ukrainian officials, who usually refuse to take responsibility for any attacks inside Russia.

Aerial attacks on Russia have escalated in recent months as the Ukrainian military pursues a counteroffensive to drive Moscow's forces out of its territory.

Russian authorities did not report any casualties from Wednesday's deluge. The airport in the Pskov region suffered the most damage. Unconfirmed media reports said up to 20 drones may have targeted the facility.

## Imran will be in jail for two more weeks

**Associated Press**
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan will remain in a high-security prison for at least another two weeks despite being granted bail the previous day, as a court extended his detention on Wednesday in a case involving the revealing of an official secret document, a defence lawyer said.

The special court – which was recently established to look into anyone accused of disclosing state secrets – announced the decision after a brief closed-door hearing that was held at a high-security Attock prison in the eastern Punjab province, lawyer Intazar Hussain Panjutha said. The next court hearing will be on September 2, he said.

Imran Khan

Mr. Khan's other lawyer, Salman Safdar, told reporters that he is petitioning a court to seek bail for Mr. Khan in the latest case.

## Business in China could be 'risky': U.S.

**Agence France-Presse**
SHANGHAI

Business in China could become "too risky" for U.S. firms without changes to the regulatory environment, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo warned on Wednesday as she wrapped up a visit to the world's second-largest economy.

Speaking on her fourth day in China and after several rounds of talks with officials as well as with U.S. firms, Ms. Raimondo said she had raised "tough issues" with local counterparts. The business environment in China "has to be predictable, there has to be a level playing field, there has to be due process, there has to be transparency", she told a press conference near Shanghai.

"U.S. business needs to see some action taken to address these issues, otherwise they will deem it as too risky," she said.

Ms. Raimondo is the latest in a series of senior U.S. officials to visit Beijing, as both sides seek to defuse tensions across a range of security and economic issues that have been at their highest levels in years.

U.S. firms in China have long complained about what they see as an unfair business environment, with preferential treatment to domestic competitors.

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## Global Fund secures deal to slash HIV treatment price; to benefit over 19 million

**Agence France-Presse**
GENEVA

The Global Fund announced on Wednesday a deal with generic pharmaceutical manufacturers to significantly slash the price of a cutting-edge HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) drug, in a move it said would save lives.

The Global Fund, a partnership set up in 2002 to battle AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, said the agreement would make it possible to provide the advanced pill known as TLD for under $45 per person per year.

"This improved pricing – a 25% reduction – will allow governments in resource-limited settings to expand access to critical HIV services," it said in a statement.

The three-in-one pill bands together the drugs tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, lamivudine and dolutegravir.

**It would be possible to provide the advanced pill known as TLD for under $45 per person per year**

The World Health Organisation has recommended it as the preferred first-line HIV treatment for adults and adolescents, since it rapidly suppresses the virus that causes AIDS, has fewer side effects and is easy to take, the statement pointed out.

"The countries most affected by HIV face enormous fiscal constraints, and there are still millions of people who are HIV-positive who don't have access to quality treatment," Global Fund chief Peter Sands said in the statement.

Thanks to the deal, around 19 million more people living with HIV in resource-constrained settings are today receiving TLD, according to the Clinton Health Access Initiative.

## INBRIEF

### Indian Bank gets directors' nod to raise ₹4,000 crore

Public sector lender Indian Bank on Wednesday said that its Committee of Directors for Capital Raising had accorded approval for raising up to ₹4,000 crore. The fund raising of ₹4,000 crore (including premium) will be done through Qualified Institutional Placement in one or more tranches, subject to necessary approvals, Indian Bank said in a regulatory filing. Shares of the bank declined ₹11.05, or 2.82%, to close at ₹380.55 on the BSE on Wednesday.

### SoftBank fund cuts stake in Zomato in $115-million deal

SoftBank Vision Fund sold a 1.17% stake in food delivery firm Zomato in a deal valued at ₹9.47 billion ($114.7 million), exchange data showed. The venture capital fund, part of Japan's SoftBank Group, sold 100 million shares at ₹94.7 apiece in bulk deals. SoftBank joins a host of investors who have partially or fully exited the company, including U.S.-based private equity firm Tiger Global, which sold its remaining holding for $136 million on Monday. REUTERS

### BharatPe CBO exits, to pursue entrepreneurial interests

Fintech platform BharatPe's Chief Business Officer (CBO) Dhruv Dhanraj Bahl is leaving the company after about four years of service, to pursue entrepreneurial interests, the firm said. Mr. Bahl's exit follows a series of resignations of top executives from the Gurugram-based company. Mr. Bahl joined the company in 2020 as head of operations and was elevated to Chief Operating Officer, before assuming his present role of CBO for Merchant Lending. PTI

# Dell, HP, 30 other firms show interest in IT hardware PLI

Scheme incentivises laptop, PC, tablet and server makers to assemble products domestically; the government recently announced restrictions on laptop imports that will take effect November 1

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Thirty-two firms have expressed interest in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's subsidies for local laptop, PC, server and tablet assembly, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday. Applicants include Dell Inc., the Hewlett-Packard Company and other firms that work with large brands for assembly.

Under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware, the Centre will provide a 5% incentive to brands on fresh local production. Observers point out this gives firms a reason to tolerate other high costs of producing in India, compared to global assembly hotspots like China and Vietnam. Mr. Vaishnaw argued that though local assembly was not high in value addition, it was a starting point for other component ecosystems to set up shop in India.

The Centre recently mandated licences for import of laptops, servers and tablets. While it insisted that most licences would be issued quickly, it came under fire for a move reminiscent of the licence raj. It then deferred the effective date to November 1.

**Sign-on bonus**

Under PLI for IT hardware, Centre will provide a 5% incentive to brands on fresh local production

- Applicants include firms working with large brands for assembly
- Local assembly is a starting point, says Minister Vaishnaw
- This will be followed by other component ecosystems setting up shop in India, he says

## 'High prices, low income could hit rural demand'

**Press Trust of India**
MUMBAI

The country's rural demand is vulnerable and could be further impacted by the "dual blows" of lower income and high food inflation due to an erratic monsoon, according to a domestic rating agency.

The upcoming festivities may lead to a rise in consumption demand but such an increase will depend on the extent of the skewed monsoon impact, CareEdge Ratings said in a report on Tuesday.

Rural demand is considered an important factor influencing overall GDP growth in the country.

## MARKETS

**MARKET WATCH**

| | WEDNESDAY | % CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Sensex | 65,087 | 0.01 |
| US Dollar | 82.63 | 0.20 |
| Gold | 60,100 | 0.50 |
| Brent oil | 85.33 | 0.68 |

**NIFTY 50**

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Adani Enter | 2513.10 | 6.65 |
| Adani Ports | 818.70 | -4.85 |
| Apollo Hosp | 4874.50 | -3.90 |
| Asian Paints | 3294.70 | 9.00 |
| Axis Bank | 983.35 | 2.65 |
| Bajaj Auto | 4675.00 | 10.45 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 1501.50 | -1.95 |
| Bajaj Finance | 7268.10 | -25.25 |
| Bharti Airtel | 857.75 | 2.55 |
| BPCL | 351.95 | -4.85 |
| Britannia Ind | 4550.80 | 20.05 |
| Cipla | 1236.15 | 6.40 |
| Coal India | 228.75 | -1.20 |
| Divis Lab | 3630.80 | -26.30 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 5649.75 | -74.05 |
| Eicher Motors | 3405.75 | 50.40 |
| Grasim Ind | 1806.65 | 4.85 |
| HCL Tech | 1170.50 | 12.95 |
| HDFC Bank | 1578.70 | -11.60 |
| HDFC Life | 637.05 | 2.15 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 2951.85 | -36.30 |
| Hindalco | 456.75 | 0.70 |
| Hind Unilever | 2531.95 | 5.80 |
| ICICI Bank | 958.90 | -8.85 |
| IndusInd Bank | 1392.45 | -7.70 |
| Infosys | 1435.15 | 17.50 |
| ITC | 442.80 | 2.70 |
| Jio Financial Services Ltd. | 231.25 | 11.00 |
| JSW Steel | 787.15 | 4.50 |
| Kotak Bank | 1774.90 | -8.20 |
| L&T | 2709.00 | -9.95 |
| LTIMindtree Ltd. | 5173.65 | 36.90 |
| M&M | 1583.20 | 22.35 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 9796.40 | 175.15 |
| NestleIndia | 22198.50 | 135.50 |
| NTPC | 220.40 | -0.70 |
| ONGC | 175.75 | 0.05 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 247.10 | -4.05 |
| Reliance Ind | 2418.05 | -2.30 |
| SBI Life | 1300.60 | 3.40 |
| State Bank | 567.40 | -7.45 |
| Sun Pharma | 1114.90 | 3.30 |
| TataConsumerProduct | 848.35 | 10.10 |
| Tata Motors | 605.55 | -1.60 |
| Tata Steel | 122.10 | 2.55 |
| TCS | 3390.95 | 14.80 |
| Tech Mahindra | 1197.20 | -0.80 |
| Titan | 3082.20 | 2.80 |
| UltraTech Cement | 8265.95 | 66.25 |
| UPL | 599.90 | 2.30 |
| Wipro | 407.20 | -0.90 |

**EXCHANGE RATES**

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 30

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | 82.53 | 82.85 |
| Euro | 89.85 | 90.20 |
| British Pound | 104.39 | 104.80 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 56.38 | 56.60 |
| Chinese Yuan | 11.32 | 11.37 |
| Swiss Franc | 93.85 | 94.22 |
| Singapore Dollar | 61.00 | 61.25 |
| Canadian Dollar | 60.85 | 61.11 |
| Malaysian Ringitt | 17.79 | 17.87 |
| Australian Dollar | 53.39 | 53.60 |

Source:Indian Bank

# India asks U.S. to release funds frozen over Russia link

**Reuters**
NEW DELHI

India has asked the United States to release $26 million belonging to at least two Indian diamond firms frozen due to their alleged trade links with sanctioned Russian diamond major Alrosa, three Indian sources told Reuters.

The OFAC freeze is the first known punitive measure against any Indian business since Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year. OFAC froze the funds when UAE-based units of the unspecified Indian companies tried to transfer them to buy rough diamonds.

"The government is aware of the action and has initiated dialogue over it," one of the Indian government sources said.

"The problem was suspicion of trade links with Alrosa."

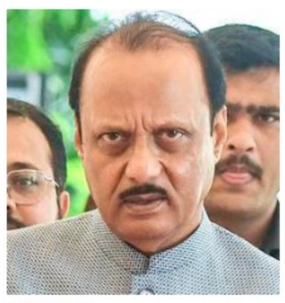
The firms have told the government that the payments were meant either for non-sanctioned Russian entities or for orders completed before the sanctions on Alrosa came into effect, the source said.

# Ajit Pawar to steer GoM on GST System Reforms, again

**Vikas Dhoot**
NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has reconstituted two of its groups of ministers (GoMs) tasked with identifying necessary System Reforms to curb evasion and analysing the revenue trends from the 6-year-old indirect tax regime.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar is back at the helm of the GoM on GST System Reforms, replacing Devendra Fadnavis. Mr. Pawar, who was given charge of the Finance portfolio in the Eknath Shinde government last month, was the original convenor of the GoM set up in September 2021, but as a member of the then MVA government.


Ajit Pawar

Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu has also been included in the GoM, replacing Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, whose portfolio was changed recently.

However, the most critical GoM of the Council tasked with rationalising the rate structure, which was headed by the erstwhile Karnataka chief minister B.S. Bommai, is yet to be rejigged after the Congress gained power in the State last year.

Karnataka's Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has, however, been inducted into the GoM tasked with reviewing revenue trends.

### Fintech firm PhonePe forays into stock broking

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Fintech firm PhonePe forayed into stock broking by introducing Share.Market, a stock-broking platform, under its PhonePe Wealth Broking subsidiary.

The new platform was expected to bring in newer demographics into the country's brokerage market which generated some ₹382 billion during FY23, market observers said.

Share.Market would bring in a new dimension to stock broking by providing quantitative research along with execution and a proven technology platform at competitive discount-broking prices, the company claimed.

# RBI's Das flags concerns over a few urban cooperative banks

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Shaktikanta Das

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said while the Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB) sector showed improved financial performance at an aggregate level in the recent times, concerns and vulnerabilities were seen for certain individual entities.

Without naming the entities, he highlighted the need for the UCBs to strengthen financial and operational resilience to contribute to financial and banking sector stability.

The Governor was addressing a conference of directors on the boards of tier 3 and 4 UCBs here.

Turning to specific expectations from the UCBs, the Governor stressed that the quality of governance was the most important aspect in ensuring stability of individual banks and urged the directors to further strengthen governance practices, especially the three supporting pillars of compliance, risk management, and internal audit.

"On the functioning of the boards, the Governor emphasised five aspects – adequate skills and expertise of directors, constitution of a professional board of management, diversity and tenure of board members, transparent and participatory nature of board discussions, and effective functioning of board-level Committees," the RBI said in a statement.

He also reinforced the need for boards' involvement in upholding rigorous credit-risk management, including robust underwriting standards, effective post-sanction monitoring, timely recognition and mitigation of incipient stress, rigorous follow up of large NPA borrowers for effective recovery, and maintaining adequate provisioning.

He also cautioned against using innovative accounting to camouflage the actual financial position.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owners: **Smt.VEENAKUMARI.B.H W/o Sri.B.A.Mallesh Kumar** and **Smt.VIJAYA.R W/o Sri.Omkareshwar.B.H,** both residing at: Toppaganahalli Village, Kasaba hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District.

The said Owners have represented that, they have lost/misplaced the original Sale deed dated 06/03/2020 and in this regard they have filed a Police Complaint on 29/08/2023 with Police unit: Ramanagara. Further the Owners represent that they have not deposited or otherwise handed over the said original Sale deed to any person/s or Bank or institution and that the Owners have a freehold subsisting marketable title to the Schedule property.

Apart from the said Owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

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**No. SEE/BLY/EE(O)/AEE(O)/2023-24/F-62/3507-13**
**Date:29.08.2023**

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(e-procurement mode only)**

Bids are invited in Two cover system through E-procurement mode only in O&M Circle GESCOM Ballari for the following:

**Bid Enq. No:** LOT-1. **Name of the Work:** Tender has been called for Providing manpower services ( Shift operators and helpers) for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works at 33/11 KV Sub-station located at **Yerragudi,Rupanagudi,Emmiganur,Guddudur** villages in O&M Circle, GESCOM Ballari. **Cost of the Tender:** 84,40,684/-. **Cost of EMD:** 1,68,814/-

**Bid Enq. No:** LOT-2. **Name of the Work:** Tender has been called for Providing manpower services ( Shift operators and helpers) for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works at 33/11 KV Sub-station located at **Ittigi,Sandur,Vittalapura,Kampli** villages in O&M Circle, GESCOM Ballari. **Cost of the Tender:** 84,40,684/-. **Cost of EMD:** 1,68,814/-

**Bid Enq. No:** LOT-3. **Name of the Work:** Tender has been called for Providing manpower services ( Shift operators and helpers) for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works at 33/11 KV Sub-station located at **Rudrapada,Hacholli, Karur & Tekkalakotte** villages in O&M Circle, GESCOM Ballari. **Cost of the Tender:** 84,40,684/-. **Cost of EMD:** 1,68,814/-

The details will be available in web site: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 02.09.2023 for any clarifications and details please contact office of the under signed during office hours Ph: 9448359009 and 9480844100.

**Sd/- Superintending Engineer Ele,**
**O&M Circle, GESCOM, Ballari**
**DIPR/Ballari/240/KSMCA/2023-24**

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**ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಯಾವತ್ತೂ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ,

ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ರೂ.**1.80** ಲಕ್ಷ, **1.98** ಲಕ್ಷ, **3.89** ಲಕ್ಷ, **9.80** ಲಕ್ಷ, **20.00** ಲಕ್ಷ, **16.00** ಲಕ್ಷ (2019–20 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಹದಿನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತವುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ತಮ್ಮ ತಮ್ಮ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನಮೂದಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಿ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಳಿ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಹಾವೇರಿ/133/2023–24/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು,
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹಾವೇರಿ.

**Hubli-Dharwad Urban Development Authority, Navanagar, Hubli**

Ref No : HDUDA/e-Auction/01/2023-24/2012 Date :28/08/2023

**e-Auction Notification**

**e-Auction of Corner Sites and Stray Sites in prestigious Layouts Developed by HDUDA**

1) Date of opening for e-Auction and Commencement of living bidding starts on 31-08-2023 @ 4 pm IST
2) Last Date of Registration for e-bidding is 29-09-2023 @ 3.30 pm IST
3) Last Date and time for closing e-Auction 05-10-2023 @ 2 pm IST (5 Minutes of Delta time)

**For additional conditions, rules and information visit Web site https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- (Gurudatta Hegade) Chairman IAS
Hubli-Dharwad Urban Development Authority, Navanagar, Hubli

Sd/- (Dr.Santhoshkumar Biradar) Commissioner KAS
Hubli-Dharwad Urban Development Authority, Navanagar, Hubli

DIPR/DWD/224/2023-24/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

# India Nippon Electricals eyes EV product line

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

India Nippon Electricals Ltd. (INEL), a leading manufacturer of electronic ignition systems for two- and three-wheelers, said it was making a transformative shift towards the electric vehicle (EV) product line.

"With an agile, flexible business model such as ours, we constantly need to recalibrate our strategies in line with evolving realities," managing director Arvind Balaji said in the latest annual report.

"While we remain dedicated to our core offerings for internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, our focus on diversification is leading us to develop a comprehensive product base tailored specifically for EVs," INEL said.

The ₹656-crore company has developed an EV controller and has ambitious plans to extend its portfolio to cover various ranges for both two- and three-wheelers. It is also actively exploring strategic partnerships with third-party companies specialising in EV products.

"To meet the surging demand for EVs, we have utilised our existing generator technology to develop a diverse range of EV Motors," Mr. Balaji said.

"Moreover, we are also concentrating our expansion efforts within the e-two-wheeler domain," he added.

# 'Brent oil price may rise to $97 in 2024'

**Reuters**

Barclays on Wednesday raised its Brent price forecast for 2024 by $8 per barrel to $97 a barrel as it expects market balances to tighten further next year.

"Slowing non-OPEC+ supply growth, driven primarily by the U.S., and persistent underproduction from several OPEC+ producers due to structural constraints bolsters our core thesis behind a constructive view on oil prices," Barclays said.

Earlier this month, Saudi Arabia extended its voluntary production cut of 1 million bpd to September end, adding it could be extended beyond then or deepened. Russia also said it would cut oil exports by 3,00,000 bpd.

Barclays forecasts a supply deficit of 6,70,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 2023 and 2,50,000 bpd in 2024 and recommends going long on the $90-$95 per barrel call spread on January 2024 Brent contract at a net cost of $1.1 per barrel.

Brent crude futures for October were trading at about $86 a barrel by 0748 GMT on Wednesday.

**Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department**
Office of The Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Bangalore Rural, Beerasandra, Devanahalli Taluk,
Ph.: 080-29787463, 9448367736, E-mail: eerwsd.bngr1@gmail.com

Tender Notification No. : 04/2023-24/469 Date : 28-08-2023

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Tender are invited on behalf of Governor of Karnataka according to KTTP Act 2000 through E-Procurement Portal for the **Works under under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Drilling of Borewell at Devanahalli, Doddaballapura, Hoskote & Nelamangala in Bangalore Rural District** (Standard Tender Document KW-4) Application & EMD Payment to be done through E-Procurement Portal.

**Conditions : 1) Contractor has to upload All Qualifying Documents through Online. 2) Tender Schedule can be Downloaded from Website : After 4.00 p.m. Dated : 28-08-2023. 3) Pre-bid Meeting : Dated : 05-09-2023 at 11.00 a.m. at Office of Executive Engineer, RDW&S, Division, Bangalore Rural at Beerasandra, Devanahalli. 4) Last Date for Tender Uploading : At 4.05 p.m. Dated : 11-09-2023. 5) Date of Opening of Tender / Technical Bid : At 4.05 p.m. Dated 12-09-2023. 6) Date of Opening of Financial Bid : At 11.00 a.m. Dated 15-09-2023**

For details Can contact Office of the undersigned and also through **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

**Sd/- S. M. Subhan Saheb,**
**Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division,**
**Bangalore Rural.**

DIPR/Bangalore Rural/1098/Manipal/2023-24

LET'S GO!

## India all set to bid for 2027 World Athletics Championships: Neeraj

India will be bidding for the 2027 World Athletics Championships, revealed Olympic and World Championship gold medallist Neeraj Chopra in Zurich on Wednesday. Asked during a press conference on the eve of the Diamond League meet, Neeraj said: "India is bidding. Hopefully, they [fans] will come in great numbers."

STAR PERFORMERS

## Marsh powers Australia to 226 before Sangha spins a web over SA

New captain Mitchell Marsh (92 n.o., 49b, 13x4, 2x6) and debutant leg-spinner Tanveer Sangha (4/31) starred in Australia's 111-run win over South Africa in the first T20I at Durban on Wednesday.
**The scores:** Australia 226/6 in 20 overs (Marsh 92 n.o., David 64) bt South Africa 115 in 15.3 overs (Hendricks 56, Sangha 4/31).

BIG SETBACK

## Liton out of Asia Cup with fever; Anamul takes his place in squad

Bangladesh suffered a setback on Wednesday as batter Liton Das was ruled out of the tournament with viral fever. The Bangladesh Cricket Board said Liton had been unable to travel and named Anamul Haque as his replacement. Anamul has played 44 ODIs and scored 1,254 runs, including three centuries.

PACERS TO THE FORE

## Carse and Wood on fire as England keeps New Zealand down to 139

England restricted New Zealand to 139 for nine in 20 overs in the opening T20I at Chester-le-Street on Wednesday. Speedsters Brydon Carse, *in pic*, and Luke Wood claimed three wickets each.
**The scores:** New Zealand 139/9 in 20 overs (Glenn Phillips 41, Luke Wood 3/37, Brydon Carse 3/23) vs England.

# Teenage sensation Pragg the toast of Chennai

It feels great to see so many people turn up here and it is very good for chess, says the young Grandmaster waving the national flag from an open-top car with a specialised livery

**Rousing reception:** A massive gathering, including government officials and students, greeted Praggnanandhaa on his arrival. R. RAVINDRAN

CHESS

**S. Dipak Ragav**
CHENNAI

The mood outside the arrival hall of the Chennai International Airport was festive on Wednesday morning as the city awaited the return of chess prodigy R. Praggnanandhaa from Baku.

The welcome party had everything in place, from banners extolling his feats to heavy percussion music and trumpets belting out old film songs with folk dance artists braving the heat and humidity of Chennai to create an atmosphere of revelry.

A massive gathering of people, including government officials, students from his school Velammal Vidyalaya and a sizeable media contingent had gathered to accord a hero's reception to the 18-year-old who took the chess world by storm last week as he finished runner-up to Magnus Carlsen in the FIDE World Cup 2023.

As soon as he emerged from the hall, the teenage sensation was mobbed by his adoring fans and showered with rose petals, bouquets, and shawls, with everyone wanting a piece of the youngster as he was gingerly escorted to his vehicle by the security officials.

"It feels great to see so many people turn up here, and it is very good for chess," said Praggnanandhaa as he waved the national flag from an open-top car that had a specialised livery arranged by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu with his face and his recent achievement.

The youngster from Chennai had a sensational time in Baku, Azerbaijan, where he had some big scalps, including Fabiano Caruana in the semifinals, as he became the first Indian to reach the final of the FIDE World Cup in its current avatar that started in 2005.

The silver medal at the event also ensured the Grandmaster a berth in the Candidates event next year, where eight players will fight for an opportunity to take on Ding Liren, the World championship title holder, in 2024.

Even as he soaked in the adulation on arrival in the country, the youngster doesn't have a lot of time to celebrate as he now heads to Kolkata for the Asian Games camp conducted by GM Boris Gelfand before participating in the Tata Steel chess tournament next week.

# Babar and Iftikhar lead Pakistan's annihilation of Nepal in opener

ASIA CUP

**Press Trust of India**
MULTAN

Skipper Babar Azam hit a delightful 151 while Iftikhar Ahmed smashed his maiden ODI century as Pakistan thrashed Nepal by 238 runs in the opening match of the Asia Cup, here on Wednesday.

Babar and Iftikhar played pivotal roles in powering Pakistan to 342 for six after opting to bat.

Babar (151, 131b, 14x4, 4x6) was involved in two crucial partnerships after a sedate start – first stitching 86 runs with Mohammad Rizwan (44, 50b, 6x4) and then sharing a whirlwind 214 runs for the fifth wicket with Iftikhar (109 n.o., 71b, 11x4, 4x6) – to take Pakistan to an imposing total.

### Unimpressive start

This was after Pakistan made an unimpressive start to their innings as they lost both the openers early.

It was always going to be a Herculean task for Nepal and it turned out to be so.

Kushal Bhurtel made a brave start to Nepal's chase with consecutive boundaries off Shaheen Shah Afridi of the opening two balls, but it was shortlived as the ace left-armer made a superb comeback to dismiss him and Nepal skipper Rohit Paudel in the last two balls of the over.

Naseem Shah then got into the act in the next over and induced an outside edge from Aasif Sheikh which was pounced by Iftikhar in the first flip as Nepal slipped to 14 for three.

**In scorching form:** Babar warmed up for bigger challenges with a sumptuous innings. AFP

Aarif Sheikh (26) and Sompal Karmi then tried to steady the ship with a 59-run fourth-wicket stand, before Haris Rauf went through the defence of the former. Rauf then dismissed Nepal's top-scorer Sompal (28) an over later to reduce the Himalayan nation to 82 for five.

Thereafter, wickets fell like nine pins as Nepal batters failed to produce any resistance, eventually getting bundled out for 104 in 23.4 overs.

Leg-spinner Shahdab Khan cleaned up Nepal's tail to return with impressive figures of four for 27.

Earlier, Fakhar Zaman (14) showed intent initially but failed to carry on as he was brilliantly caught by a diving Nepal wicketkeeper Aasif Sheikh off the bowling of Karan KC in the sixth over.

Pakistan suffered yet another blow soon when Imam-ul-Haq was found short of the crease while attempting a single that was not for the taking. A direct throw from Nepal captain Rohit Paudel ended his innings. Babar was then joined at the crease by wicketkeeper-batter Rizwan and the duo stabilised Pakistan's innings.

While Babar played the role of an anchor, Rizwan showed his attacking instincts during the 86-run stand for the third wicket which came off 111 balls.

Rizwan fell to a direct hit at the non-striker's end by Dipendra Singh Airee in search of a quick single. Rizwan paid the price for not grounding his bat.

While Babar kept one end steady, Salman Agha (5) fell prey to Sandeep Lamichhane. Babar brought up his fifty with a double in the 29th over.

But Iftikhar's arrival gave the much-needed boost to Pakistan's innings as he played aggressively from the onset.

Iftikhar's approach seemed to have inspired Babar as well as he too opened up his arms thereafter and found the boundaries at will. Babar brought up his ton off 109 balls in the 42nd over.

**The scores:**
Pakistan 342/6 in 50 overs (Babar Azam 151, Mohammad Rizwan 44, Iftikhar Ahmed 109 n.o.) bt Nepal 104 in 23.4 overs (Shadab Khan 4/27).

Today's match

GROUP B

Sri Lanka vs. Bangladesh

Pallekele, **3 p.m.** IST

H2H IN ODIs

Played **51**

| Sri Lanka | Bangladesh | NR |
|---|---|---|
| 40 | 9 | 2 |

# Gauff powers past Andreeva; no sweat for Alcaraz

US OPEN

**Agence France-Presse**
NEW YORK

Coco Gauff cruised into the third round of the US Open on Wednesday with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva.

The sixth-seeded American approached the net 18 times, winning 15 of those points, in her second straight match on the Arthur Ashe Stadium. She credited her newfound net game for her transformation after struggling to beat German Laura Siegemund in three sets in the first round. "I learned to be aggressive," said the 19-year-old Gauff. "I did well to make her play off the back foot."

Andreeva, at 16 the youngest woman in the tournament, reached the fourth round at Wimbledon and the third round at Roland-Garros, also losing to Gauff.

Gauff faces 32nd-seeded Elise Mertens of Belgium, who fought back to beat American Danielle Collins 3-6, 7-6(9), 6-1.

On Tuesday, Carlos Alcaraz launched the defence of his crown with a brisk victory after his opponent – Germany's Dominik Koepfer – rolled his left ankle badly in the opening game and called it quits in the second set after losing the first 2-6.

Karen Khachanov, a semifinalist last year, was shocked in the opening round by World No. 89 American Michael Mmoh 2-6, 4-6, 2-6.

British veteran Andy Murray downed France's Corentin Moutet 6-2, 7-5, 6-3 in a match that saw a bungled attempt to use the US Open's new video review technology for the first time. Chair umpire Louise Azemar Engzell attempted to deploy the system after Moutet requested a review following a double-bounce call, but was forced to abandon it after discovering that the officials were unable to access footage of the incident.

**In a hurry:** Gauff dropped just five games during her win over Andreeva. AFP

"I don't know how the technology works," Murray said. "But it obviously didn't go to plan in an important moment of the match. It would be good if they could get that fixed."

China sealed a notable first when Wu Yibing beat Serbia's Dusan Lajovic 3-6, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 to join compatriot Zhang Zhizhen in the second round. It is the first time in the Open era that two Chinese men have reached the second round of the same Grand Slam.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

**Men**: **Second round**: Gojo (Cro) bt McDonald (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.
**First round**: 16-Norrie (GBr) bt Shevchenko 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; Mmoh (USA) bt 11-Khachanov 6-2, 6-4, 6-2; Michelsen (USA) bt Ramos-Vinolas (Esp) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4; 23-Jarry (Chi) bt van Assche (Fra) 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 7-6(3); Fils (Fra) bt 24-Griekspoor (Ned) 4-6, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 7-5; Yu (Tai) bt Kokkinakis (Aus) 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; Murray (GBr) bt Moutet (Fra) 6-2, 7-5, 6-3; Baez (Arg) bt 27-Coric (Cro) 7-5, 7-5, 6-1; 8-Rublev bt Cazaux (Fra) 6-4, 7-6(5), 6-1; Isner (USA) bt Acosta (Arg) 6-4, 6-3, 7-6(1); 19-Dimitrov (Bul) bt Molcan (Slo) 6-7(9), 6-7(5), 6-1, 7-5, 7-6(9); 13-de Minaur (Aus) bt Skatov (Kaz) 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 7-5; 26-Evans (GBr) bt Galan (Col) 6-4, 6-2, 7-5; Wawrinka (Sui) bt Nishioka (Jpn) 7-6(5), 6-2, 6-4; 17-Hurkacz (Pol) bt Huesler (Sui) 4-6, 5-7, 7-6(0), 6-3, 6-1; Monfils (Fra) bt Daniel (Jpn) 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 7-6(4); 6-Sinner (Ita) bt Hanfmann (Ger) 6-3, 6-1, 6-1; 1-Alcaraz (Esp) bt Koepfer (Ger) 6-2, 3-2, ret; 30-Etcheverry (Arg) bt Virtanen (Fin) 6-3, 6-7(3), 1-6, 6-4, 7-6(5).
**Doubles: First round:** 6-Bopanna & Ebden (Aus) bt O'Connell & Vukic (Aus) 6-4, 6-2.
**Women**: **Second round**: 15-Bencic (Sui) bt Miyazaki (GBr) 6-3, 6-3; Townsend (USA) 19-Maia (Bra) 7-6 (1), 7-5; 6-Gauff (USA) bt Andreeva 6-3, 6-2; 32-Mertens (Bel) bt Collins (USA) 3-6, 7-6(7), 6-1; Juvan (Slv) bt Davis (USA) 6-7(3), 6-4, 6-3.
**First round:** 9-Vondrousova (Cze) bt Na-lae (Kor) 6-3, 6-0; Wang (Chn) bt 7-Garcia (Fra) 6-4, 6-1; 17-Keys (USA) bt Rus (Ned) 6-2, 6-4; 3-Pegula (USA) bt Giorgi (Ita) 6-2, 6-2; 26-Svitolina (Ukr) Friedsam (Ger) 6-3, 6-1; 13-Kasatkina bt Parks (USA) 2-6, 6-4, 6-2; 25-Pliskova (Cze) bt Ruse (Rom) 6-1, 6-4; Tauson (Den) bt 27-Potapova 7-6(4), 3-6, 6-3; Pavlyuchenkova bt Crawley (USA) 6-2, 6-4; Lys (Ger) bt Montgomery (USA) 6-2, 6-1; Kanepi (Est) bt Strycova (Cze) 6-4, 6-4; Vickery (USA) bt 21-Vekic (Cro) 2-6, 7-5, 6-2; Minnen (Bel) bt Williams (USA) 6-1, 6-1; 23-Zheng (Chn) bt Podoroska (Arg) 6-1, 6-0; Bronzetti (Ita) bt 12-Krejcikova (Cze) 6-4, 7-6(3); Kenin (USA) bt Bogdan (Rom) 7-6(2), 6-4; 2-Sabalenka bt Zanevska (Bel) 6-3, 6-2.

**Fallen seeds**
**Men:** 11-Khachanov; 24-Griekspoor; 27-Coric. **Women:** 7-Garcia; 12-Krejcikova; 21-Vekic; 27-Potapova.

*Lanka calling*

**Next assignment:** (Clockwise from top left) India skipper Rohit, Kohli, Tilak and Hardik snapped on their arrival in Colombo on Wednesday for the Asia Cup. PTI

## INBRIEF

### Haaland clinches PFA Player of the Year Award

Manchester City striker Erling Haaland scooped the PFA Players' Player of the Year Award on Tuesday after his stellar first season with the treble winner. England and Aston Villa star Rachel Daly won the women's prize, voted for by fellow players. Organised by the Professional Footballers' Association, the awards salute the best male and female players in English football in 2023.

### Nagal moves up in the Como Challenger

Sumit Nagal beat Riccardo Bonadio of Italy 6-4, 0-6, 7-6(4) in the first round of the €73,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Como, Italy.

**Important results:**
**€73,000 Challenger, Como, Italy: Singles (first round):** Sumit Nagal bt Riccardo Bonadio (Ita) 6-4, 0-6, 7-6(4).
**€73,000 Challenger, Mallorca, Spain: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Niki Poonacha & Divij Sharan bt Rafael Giiotis (Ger) & Daniil Sarksian 6-3, 6-4.

**$25,000 ITF, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand: Men: Singles (first round):** Siddhant Banthia bt Natthasith Kunsuwan (Tha) 6-4, 2-6, 6-2; Thanapet Chanta (Tha) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-1, 6-3; Yuta Kawahashi (Jpn) bt Isshaque Eqbal 6-1, 6-3.
**Women: Singles (first round):** Anchisa Chanta (Tha) bt Zeel Desai 6-1, 6-1; Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Gozal Ainitdinova (Kaz) 6-3, 6-3.

### Manchester United's Varane ruled out for "a few weeks"

Raphael Varane is the latest player sidelined for Manchester United, with the former France centre-back ruled out for "a few weeks" because of an unspecified injury. Varane came off at halftime of United's 3-2 win over Nottingham Forest in the Premier League on Saturday. He is definitely out of United's trip to Arsenal on Sunday before the league takes a two-week break for international games. Defender Luke Shaw and midfielder Mason Mount, an offseason signing from Chelsea, are also out with injuries sustained in the opening weeks of the season.

**LIVE TELECAST**

**Asia Cup**: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3 p.m.
**Durand Cup**: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4 p.m.
**US Open**: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m. & 4.30 a.m. (Friday)
**Champions League**: (Group-stage draw), Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.30 p.m.
**England Women vs Sri Lanka Women**: 1st T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.30 p.m.

# Big-ticket IOC-Railways contest lives up to its billing

Defending champion rallies from behind to deny the former title holder a win by scoring twice in eight minutes as Gurjinder and Rohan up the ante; PNB beats HUTN for a semifinal berth; Hockey Karnataka prevails over Indian Navy

**MURUGAPPA HOCKEY**

**K. Keerthivasan**
CHENNAI

Billed as the most competitive and mouth-watering Group-A tie in the 94th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup All-India hockey tournament here on Wednesday, the one between defending champion IOC and former champion Indian Railways largely lived up to the promise as the former pulled off a tantalising 4-4 draw.

Earlier in a Group-B match, Punjab National Bank (PNB) defeated Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu (HUTN) 2-0 to seal its place in the semifinals while Hockey Karnataka pipped Indian Navy 2-1 in a Group-A contest.

Trailing 2-4 going into the final quarter, IOC, with a bevy of former Internationals, proved why it's a top-notch and a star-studded side as it scored twice in a span of eight nine minutes to deny a possible victory for Railways.

**Saviour:** Roshan Minz saved the blushes for IOC against Railways Sports Promotion Board. M. VEDHAN

Gurjinder Singh converted off a penalty corner to reduce the margin while Roshan Minz pushed one home in a scramble near the box to save the blushes for IOC.

From its quota of four matches, Railways has eight points while IOC has seven from three. The defending champion, however, has one more match against Central Secretariat. In effect, IOC and Railways have qualified for the semifinals.

In Group-B, Army (six points from three) has to post a win over IAF on Thursday to ensure that it joins PNB in the last four. CAG (seven from four) will wait and watch.

**A spectacle**
The tie involving Karnataka and Indian Navy was a spectacle with both playing entertaining hockey with speed being the common feature. In sharp contrast, the PNB-HUTN match was an eyesore as the teams' lacked imagination.

As a host, HUTN was a huge disappointment collecting just one point from four matches.

**The results:**
PNB 2 (Sanjay, Jenjen Singh) bt HUTN 0; Hockey Karnataka 2 (Bharath Kurtakoti, Chelsea Medappa) bt Indian Navy 1 (Sunny Malik).
IOC 4 (Ankit Pal, Talwinder Singh, Gurjinder Singh, Roshan Minz) drew with Indian Railways 4 (Pratap Lakra, Gursahibjit Singh, Yuvraj Walmiki, Atuldeep).

## Maninder scores four as India routs Bangladesh

**HOCKEY 5S**

**Press Trust of India**
SALALAH (OMAN)

Maninder Singh and Mohammed Raheel scored four and three goals respectively as the Indian men's hockey team hammered Bangladesh 15-1 in the Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier campaign opener here late on Tuesday.

Maninder struck in the 10th, 18th, 28th and 30th minutes while Raheel found the target in the second, 15th and 24th minutes. Sukhvinder (13th, 22nd), Gurjot Singh (13th, 23rd), Pawan Rajbhar (19th, 26th) scored twice each while Mandeep Mor (eighth) and Dipsan Tirkey (ninth) got one each. For Bangladesh, Sawon Sarowar (second) scored the lone goal.

India attacked from the start with with Pawan Rajbhar making a dangerous move. But Bangladesh caught India on the counter-attack with Sarowar scoring the first goal two minutes into the match.

# TNCA President's XI goes down to Chhattisgarh without a fight

**BUCHI BABU**

**Rayan Rozario**
COIMBATORE

TNCA President's XI went down by 70 runs to Chhattisgarh on the final day of the Buchi Babu tournament at the Sri Ramakrishna Institutions grounds here on Wednesday.

It's always challenging playing on a day four surface. But knocking off 171 with six wickets in hand wasn't a difficult task given the quality of the host's batting line-up.

**Vijay Shankar excels**
Skipper Vijay Shankar (80, 120b, 7x4, 2x6), who looked scratchy in the last couple of innings, finally found his touch.

With Mohammed Ali (52, 97b, 4x4, 2x6) to give him company, he played it safe for some time.

He soon realised that being defensive was not the best option and chose to attack. It clicked as the duo raised their respective half-centuries and, with it, brought about their century stand. The road to victory looked smooth at this juncture but off-spinner Jivesh Bhutte trapped Mohammed in front and V.P. Diran, who came in next, ran himself out to a smart throw by substitute Sangeet Soni to give the visitor a ray of hope.

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PAY PLAYER OF THE MATCH
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**Well done:** Ajith Ram receives the player-of-the-match award from S. Srinivason, Apex Council Member, TNCA. RAYAN ROZARIO

With 86 required and enough time on the clock to cross the line, the host batters could have played patiently but went into T20 mode and paid the price.

"We recovered well from 31 for four and tried our best till the end. Batting in the middle wasn't easy but we could have done a lot better. We did not want to play too defensively for long and went for the shots. But overall, it was a good learning experience," said Vijay Shankar after the match.

**The scores (final day):**
**At Coimbatore:** Chhattisgarh 270 & 202 bt TNCA President's XI 208 & 194 in 60.4 overs (Vijay Shankar 80, S. Mohammed Ali 52, Jivesh Butte 4/52). **Points:** Chhattisgarh 6 (12), TNCA President's XI 0 (3).
**PoM:** Ajith Ram.
**At Dindigul:** Madhya Pradesh 440 & 232/8 in 79.1 overs (Aniket Verma 104 n.o.) drew with Haryana 322. MPCA 3 (9), Haryana 1 (1);
**PoM:** Aniket (MPCA).
**At Salem:** J&K 285/9 decl. & 414 in 116.5 overs (Qamran Iqbal 54, Shubham Khajuria 69, Shubham Pundir 86, Abdul Samad 44, Abid Mushtaq 79, Himanshu Singh 5/111) drew with Mumbai 381 & 69/0 in 7.5 overs (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 47 n.o.). Mumbai 3 (4); J&K 1 (1);
**PoM:** Prasad Pawar (Mumbai).
**Semifinals (Sept. 2 to 5):** Chhattisgarh vs Delhi (Salem); Madhya Pradesh vs TNCA XI (Dindigul).

## Usha to contest for CGF vice-president's post

**Press Trust of India**
CHENNAI

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president P.T. Usha will take a step further as an administrator as she will be contesting the upcoming Commonwealth Games Federation elections for the post of vice-president.

On Wednesday, the CGF announced the list of candidates shortlisted for the upcoming polls that will elect candidates for the posts of president, vice-president, regional VPs and sports committee members.

Usha will be contesting alongside Hugh Graham of Cook Islands, Barry Hendricks (South Africa), Sandra Osborne (Barbados), Richard Powers (Canada), Ian Reid (Scotland) and Dr Donald Rukare (Uganda). Usha was appointed as the IOA president last December unopposed, while she also happens to be the committee head of the Indian Talent Olympiad.

For the president's position, Chris Jenkins (Wales) and Kereyn Smith (New Zealand) are the two vying candidates.

Usha. FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

"The incoming President will be responsible for leading the Commonwealth Sport Movement over the next four years and helping to shape the Games into the future," CGF said in a release.

**The candidates contesting for the Regional VPs' posts:**
**Africa**: Colonel Botsang Tshenyego (Botswana); **Americas**: Judy Simons (Bermuda); **Asia**: Christopher Chan (Singapore), Maxwell DeSilva (Sri Lanka), Dr. P. T. Usha (India); **Caribbean**: Ephraim Penn (British Virgin Islands); **Europe**: Louise Mackie (England), Harry Murphy (Gibraltar), Helen Philips (Wales); **Oceania**: Craig Philips (Australia).

# An intense semifinal looms as Bagan and Goa lock horns

**DURAND CUP**

**Amitabha Das Sharma**
KOLKATA

The reigning Indian Super League champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant will go in as the 'home' favourite when it takes on its top league rival FC Goa in the second semifinal of the 132nd Durand Cup, under lights, at the Salt Lake Stadium on Thursday.

Both the teams are former champions with Bagan lifting the Durand Cup a record 16 times and Goa once.

Keeping their pre-season preparations in mind, a place in the final will be a priority for both.

Bagan, which last triumphed in 2000, needs a trophy to justify the faith of its fans as it plays the first tournament of the new season after the Indian Super League victory.

Ferrando's squad needs a trophy to justify the faith of its fans after its success in the ISL against Marquez's outfit that has been on the ascendence
Bagan lifted the cup a record 16 times and Goa once

On the other hand, Goa, which won the Durand in 2021, also needs the crown to redeem itself in the esteem of its supporters who have been longing to see the team end its title drought for the last two seasons.

**Thriliing contest**
All these point to a thrilling contest as the two sides have been in rousing form as gauged from their performances so far.

FC Goa, which has remained unbeaten in the season so far, has progressed to the semifinals scoring an impressive 15 goals during its campaign.

The 4-1 crushing of Chennaiyin FC in the quarterfinals bears testimony of the Gaurs' strength which is on the ascendance under the stewardship of the astute coach Manolo Marquez.

**Reputation**
For Bagan, it will be more about keeping its reputation as the champion team of India intact.

The Kolkata giant gave an attestation of its prowess when it beat the ISL league shield winner Mumbai City FC in the quarterfinals.

Coach Juan Ferrando will be hoping that his team, arguably the most expensive outfit in the country, will continue to perform consistently.

**KARNATAKA ROUND-UP**

**Dedicated facility for wheelchair tennis players at Sidlaghatta**
BENGALURU: Deuce Tennis Centre, a dedicated facility for wheelchair tennis players, is set to be built at Sidlaghatta, Chikkaballapur district. The decision to that effect was made by the Indian Wheelchair Tennis Tour (IWTT) on Tuesday. The complex is expected to be constructed on a 1.3 acre space and will have three tennis courts, accommodation facilities and other amenities. The goal is to create a hub for Indian players to train so that they can make their presence felt on the world tennis map by 2028.

**Pratik pumps in five**
Pratik Swami scored five times as MFAR Students Union defeated Young Challengers 8-3 in the BDFA Super Division league on Wednesday.
**The results:** MFAR Students Union 8 (Jenishsinh Rana 11, Pratik Swami 43, 44, 66, 67, 82, G. Udit 85, 88) bt Young Challengers 3 (E. Devaraju 12, Letminlun Singson 20, Sunny Kumar 34); Bangalore Independents 4 (Sathish Kumar 17, Saravanakumar 47, Raja Ganapathy 75, H. Prashanth 85) bt BUFC 0.

**KSFA trials to select State jr. girls' team**
Karnataka State Football Association is calling for trials to select the State team for Hero Junior Girls National Football Championship (U-15). Those born on or after January 1, 2007 but on or before December 31, 2009 are eligible. Interested candidates should have played in the local district league or for school at the State level. Certificates confirming the same, along with digital birth certificates – registered within one year of birth – are to be mailed to *ceoksfa@gmail.com* on or before September 2.

# Neeraj Chopra will look to continue his unbeaten streak

**DIAMOND LEAGUE**

**Press Trust of India**
ZURICH

The newly-crowned World champion Neeraj Chopra will look to maintain his unbeaten streak in the Diamond League meet when he competes in a star-studded javelin field here on Thursday.

The 25-year-old Neeraj has been unbeaten this season, having won two Diamond League meetings in Doha (May 5) and Lausanne (June 30) before his World Championships triumph at Budapest.

In Zurich, Neeraj will be up against familiar rivals like Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch, Julian Weber of Germany and Anderson Peters of Grenada.

Neeraj, who won the Diamond League final trophy last year, is third with 16 points from two events behind Vadlejch (21 from three) and Weber (19 from three).

**In form:** Neeraj is primed to notch up his third Diamond League win of the season. AP

The Zurich leg is the last one in the Diamond League series where men's javelin is on the roster before the season finale in Eugene on September 16 and 17 where the Diamond League champion will be crowned. Long jumper M. Sreeshankar will also be in action and he would be looking to redeem himself after failing to qualify for the final round at the Worlds. Sreeshankar is currently third in the long jump standings of this Diamond League season, with 10 points from two events.

**Queens' Gambit:** The women's section, which has a strong field, wears an open look. DEBASISH BHADURI

# Focus on Pragg, but it's ladies first at Tata Steel chess

The 18-year-old's stirring World Cup campaign in Baku is still fresh in memory and he will make his first move in the open section on Sept. 5

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**
KOLKATA

He arrived to a hero's welcome in his hometown Chennai on Wednesday. Another rousing welcome awaits R. Praggnanandhaa here.

After his exploits at the Chess World Cup in Baku, the 18-year-old will be the biggest attraction in the fifth edition of the Tata Steel chess tournament which opens at the National Library on Thursday.

The fans – there are many of them here – will have to wait for a few more days to catch a glimpse of him as the open section begins only on September 5.

It is going to be the ladies first as the first five days will witness action in the women's section, which is only in its second year.

According to the organisers, Praggnanandhaa's elder sister R. Vaishali, who caused a sensation by winning the blitz title here last year, had to pull out owing to ill-health. Divya Deshmukh is her replacement.

Despite the absence of Vaishali, the field looks pretty strong as it is led by reigning women's World champion Ju Wenjun. She is in form, too, having won her fourth successive World title last month.

Koneru Humpy, a former World rapid champion, and D. Harika are more than capable of continuing with the theme of India shining in chess. Sixteen-year-old B. Savitha Shri, who won a stunning bronze medal at the World rapid championship last year, Vantika Agrawal and Divya complete the Indian challenge.

Anna Ushenina, defending champion in the rapid section, Nino Batsiashvili, Polina Shuvalova and Irina Krush are the other women in a tournament that has earned appreciation for its equal pay policy.

The open section also boasts several big names such as Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Nodirbek Abdusattarov, Vincent Keymer, Teimour Radjabov, Alexander Grischuk, D. Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi.

India's only world-class chess tournament concludes on September 9.

# Top stars all set to throw light on key issues

**Sports Bureau**

The *Sportstar* Conclave caravan returns for a second round, with Focus Telangana in Hyderabad on Thursday (August 31) the first show of the edition. A host of speakers will discuss key issues pertaining to the sports ecosystem in the region.

**Inaugural address**

Telangana Sports Minister V. Srinivas Goud will deliver the inaugural address at the day-long Conclave, which will have two-time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu, among other big stars, in attendance.

H.S. Prannoy, who won his first BWF World Championship medal (bronze), and India's chief National coach P. Gopi Chand will discuss the success story of Indian badminton and the perseverance and patience it took to reach the top.

Olympic bronze medallist Gagan Narang and Commonwealth Games gold medallist P. Kashyap look at India's pathway to glory at the Games with the Paris Olympics less than a year away.

Former India captain Mithali Raj will share her insights on the efforts needed to boost women's cricket in the country.

Suchitra Academy chairman Praveen Raju, SATS chairman Dr. Anjaneya Goud, Dr. Sudheer Dara, Founder & Director, Epione, Sreenidi FC chairman M.T. Mahi and shooter Esha Singh, a World Championship medallist, will discuss the promotion of sports in schools and academies.

C.V. Anand, former cricketer and Commissioner of Police, Greater Hyderabad, will explore the potential of sports in community building. Former cricketers Arshad Ayub, Vijay Mohan Raj, Shivlal Yadav and P. Hari Mohan will draw from their experience during the Cricket at Crossroads discussion.

In keeping with the tradition of *Sportstar's* Conclaves, two awards – Hero Unsung Champion and Emerging Hero – will also be presented during the event.

The Conclave is being held in association with Hero We Care – a Hero Motocorp CSR Initiative, Carrera, Indian Oil, ISBC, NTPC, Khan Study Group, KPMG, Sprint Diagnostics, Sneha Fresh Chicken, Great Sports Tech, Epione and NewsX.

The day-long event can be followed live on *sportstar.thehindu.com*.

# SkaSports picks up a minority stake in Siem Reap-based club Angkor Tiger FC

**FOOTBALL**

**Sports Bureau**
CHENNAI

SkaSports Investments Private Limited, a fully Indian-owned organisation focusing on sports-related businesses, announced the acquisition of a minority stake in Cambodian club Angkor Tiger Football Club on Wednesday.

The club – owned by Japanese businessman and entrepreneur Akihiro Kato – plays in the Cambodian Premier League and is based out of Siem Reap, globally famous for the Angkor Wat temple. SkaSports, engaged in the business of investing in and acquiring sports teams, leagues and properties, recently took a stake in SportsCast India, a sports webcasting platform.

**New tie-up:** Rohit Ramesh, director of SkaSports Investments, Akihiro Kato, chairman of Angkor Tiger FC, Takahisa Kiyone, CEO of Angkor Tiger, Kawaguchi Masaki, director and counsellor, Consular Officer of Japan in Siem Reap, and Sudhir Menon, director SkaSports Investments. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In a statement, SkaSports said, "Through this investment and partnership, both entities will work together to enhance the sporting and business profile of Angkor Tiger FC and explore new possibilities for commercial and non-commercial ventures in the Asian market."

Rohit Ramesh, Director of SkaSports, said "It's a proud moment for us to be onboard with Angkor Tiger FC. Along with Sudhir Menon, we achieved a lot with Chennai City FC and provided numerous opportunities to young Indian talents, who continue to shine today on the national stage. It is my sincere hope that we continue the process of developing young talents and see more synergies between our different football ecosystems."

Commenting on the investment, Sudhir Menon, Director of SkaSports added, "Angkor Tiger FC represents our first foray into the global footballing ecosystem. As an Indian business entity, we look forward to working with our Cambodian and Japanese partners to achieve the club's sporting and commercial ambitions. I am confident, this will open more doors for collaborations and enhanced relations between the football ecosystems in India and Cambodia, unlocking unlimited possibilities."

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

| Tender No. | Material Description | Due date |
|---|---|---|
| 232423 002129 | Supply of LT Power and Control Cables for New Bleached Pulp Tower in TNPL Unit - II | 22.09.2023 |
| 232423 001979 | Procurement of Inbed Evaporator Coil for TNPL Unit - II | 14.09.2023 |
| E-Mail | 232423002129 - pmd1@tnpl.co.in 232423001979 - purchaseengg.u2@tnpl.co.in | |

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR/4831/Tender/2023 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**
Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele),
South Zone, Jayanagar, BBMP

No. BBMP/EE/ELE/South/TEND/01/2023-24 Dated : 29-08-2023

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)**
(Through E-Procurement Portal only)

Executive Engineer (Elect), South Zone, invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike / KPWD on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, as detailed in the table.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work | Approximate value of work (Rs. in lakhs) | EMD (Rs.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Arranging Temporary illumination to Ganesha immersion function at Hombegowda Nagar ground in Hombegowda Nagar Ward No. 145. | 1.00 | 2500/- |
| 2 | Arranging Temporary illumination to Ganesha immersion Tank at Mestri palya in Koramangala Ward No. 151. | 1.00 | 2500/- |
| 3 | Arranging Temporary illumination to Ganesha immersion Tank at Vivekananda Park in Girinagar Ward No. 162. | 2.00 | 5000/- |
| 4 | Arranging Temporary illumination to Ganesha immersion Tank at Yediyur Lake in Yediyur Ward No. 167. | 6.00 | 15,000/- |

**(a)** Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal from : **31-08-2023. (b)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **16:00 hours on 07-09-2023** and Financial Bid shall be opened on **08-09-2023 at 16:30 hrs.**
For details of registration and e-payment of EMD, visit GOK e-Procurement website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-Procurement helpdesk at 080-25501216, 25501227.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.),**
**South Zone, Jayanagar, BBMP**

**UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES,**
STORES PURCHASE OFFICE, KRISHI NAGAR,
DHARWAD-580 005 e-mail : spo@uasd.in
No. SPO/EO/Tender-eproc. 01/2023-24
Date : 28.08.2023

**"Tender Notification Through e-procurement" (2nd Call)**

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad is inviting Tender from the authorized registered **printing firms** through e-Procurement portal for the **printing works of regular periodicals, Books etc of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad for the year 2023-24 (2nd Call).** The details of the tender can be had through e-Procurement Portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in **(Service Tender Category)** and Printing firms are requested to participate in Tender **online only.** For more details please contact **0836-2214231** during office hours.

**SHEDULE OF EVENTS**

(1) Last date and time for tender queries / clarification : **04.09.2023** (Monday) till 4.00 PM (2) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting (In the Office of E.O.) : **05.09.2023** (Tuesday) at 11.00 AM (3) Last date & time for receipt of Tender : **12.09.2023** (Tuesday) till 4.00 PM (4) Date & Time for opening of Financial Bid : **13.09.2023** (Wednesday) at 4.10 PM

Tenderers need to register with e-procurement portal of Govt of Karnataka B'lore. For details of registration please contact ph. **No: 080-22230960 / 080-22234115.** Bidders are requested to get updated with the corrigendum/addendum (if any) issued online from time to time on the e-Procurement Portal during the entire tender process. **Sd/- Estate Officer**
DIPR/Dharwad/KSMCA/222/2023-24 **UAS, Dharwad**

**KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

KPCL invites tenders through e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

**(1) KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT345/CALL-2, Dated: 25.08.2023,** for **"Repair/rectification testing of Yokogawa DCS electronic power modules Unit of #5 & 6".** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **06.09.2023 up to 16.00 Hrs. (2) KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT529, Dated: 19.08.2023,** for **"Annual maintenance contract of personal Computers/Printers/Local Area Network at RTPS, Shaktinagar for the year 2023-25 (Two years)".** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **06.09.2023 at 16:00 Hrs. (3) KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT467, Dated: 10.08.2023,** for **"Supply, Erection, Commissioning and Testing of 75 KW Sump pump motor and LT module at MCC-1 SWGR for Fire Quenching of CHP-E1 at RTPS".** EMD: **Rs. 18,148/-.** Last date for receipt of tenders: : **08.09.2023. (4) KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT459, Dated: 09.08.2023,** for **"Upgradation of conveyor No. 4 LT Motor and draw out type module from 55KW to 75KW at CHP-1 of RTPS".** EMD: **Rs. 51,775/-.** Last date for receipt of tenders: **08.09.2023.** Further details can be had from **Executive Engineer (I-3) (for Sl. No. 1), Executive Engineer (Systems), Mob: 7259513933/8951815109 (for Sl. No. 2), Executive Engineer (CHP)E1 for Sl.No. 3 & 4), RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District.**

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**PERSONAL**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I, VAISHNAVI** daughter of Arun Kumar Rai, resident of No.135/5, Red Quarters, Cambridge Road, Agram Post, Bengaluru 560007 have changed my Name from Vaishnavi to Vaishnavi Rai vide Affidavit dated 29th August 2023 before the Notary Public Muneer Ahmed Bengaluru dated: 29.08.2023

**I, ARUN** Kumar Rai, resident of No.135/5, Red Quarters, Cambridge Road, Agram Post, Bengaluru 560007 have changed my daughter's Name from Shivangi to Shivangi Rai vide Affidavit dated 29th August 2023 before the Notary Public Muneer Ahmed Bengaluru dated: 29.08.2023

**THANKSGIVING**

**THANKSGIVING**

Thank you St. Expedite for answering my prayer and showering your kind love and blessings on me towards my financial issues. My sincere prayers will continue throughout my journey. Please shower your love and blessings upon me.
- Thank you, Ramya K

**LEGAL NOTICE**

IN THE COURT OF 73rd ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYOHALL, AT BANGALORE (CCH 74)
O.S. No. 25412/2022

BETWEEN:
**M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED**
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramod G,
Aged about 48 years
**S/o. Mr. Gurumallappa ...PLAINTIFF**

AND :
**MR. KARTHIK. P. N.**
S/o. Mr. Narasimhan
Aged 30 years, 10th Floor, Citrine Block, Bagmane World, Technology Centre, Mahadevapura Bengaluru- 560048 **...DEFENDANT**

**SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT**

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 5,45,225.60/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Five and Paisa Sixty Only)** apart from future interest of 9.41%, in **O.S. No. 25412/2022** and same is pending adjudication in CCH 74, Before Addl., City Civil and session Judge, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **25th** day of **September, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **21st day of August, 2023.**
By the order of court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall,
BENGALURU- 560 001
FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No.9, Old No.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

IN THE COURT OF 70nd ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYOHALL, AT BANGALORE (CCH 74)
O.S. No. 25158/2023

BETWEEN :
**M/S. ICICI BANK LIMITED**
**Mittal Tower,** M.G.Road, Bangalore-560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramod G, Aged about 48 years
**S/o. Mr. Gurumallappa ...PLAINTIFF**

AND :
**Mr. Umesh S/o. Bachcha Devadiga**
Aged Major No. 89, 4th Main, 4th Cross, Behind Vidyapeeta Gururaj Layout, BSK 3rd Stage Bengaluru- 560028
**ALSO AT**
Mr. Umesh
S/o Bachacha Devadiga
Aged Major, No. 1081, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Floor Vistar Arcade 14th Main Sector, HSR Layout Bengaluru- 560102
**...DEFENDANT**

**SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT**

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 5,81,836.70 (Rupees Five Lakhs Eighty One Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Six and Paisa Seventy Only)** apart from future interest of 24%, in **O.S. No. 25158/2023** and same is pending adjudication in CCH 74, Before Addl. City Civil and session Judge, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **25th** Day of **September, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **21st day of August, 2023.**
By the order of court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall,
BENGALURU- 560 001
FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No.9, Old No.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

IN THE COURT OF THE LII ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSONS JUDGE
AT BANGALORE (CCH-53)
ORIGINAL SUIT
NO. 1329 OF 2022
Hg- 11.10.2023

BETWEEN :
**ICICI Bank Ltd.**
a body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having-Registered Office at : "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007. And having its Branch office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 4/10, 1st Floor Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Road, Bangalore- 560068 and represented by its POA Holder and Collection Manager Mr. Rohith Ali M, S/o. Ishrath Ali M,
Age : 24 years **...Plaintiff**
**And :**
Mr. Arun Kumar Murthy and another **...Defendant**

**Summons to the defendant by way of paper publiction**

**To,**
**Defendants :**
**1. SRI ARUN KUMAR MURTHY**
Aged about 30 years,
Son of Murthy Durai,
**2. SMT. GEETHA**
Aged about 28 years Wife of Arun Kumar Murthy. Both are R/at. 349/11, 1st Floor 2nd Cross K.G Colony, G.N Palya, Near Om Shakthi Temple, New Thippasandra, Bangalore- 560075

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 & 2 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of **Rs. 4,60,169/- (Rupees Four Lakh Sixty Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Nine Only)** as together with interest at the rate **18% p.a.** from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on **11-10-2023** at **11.00 am** to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 22nd day of August, 2023.
By the order of the court
Asst. Registrar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

**Advocates for Plaintiff**
**S.M. ANEES AHAMED,**
**B.M. KUSHALAPPA,**
**Advocates,**
**No.4(10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore- 560001**

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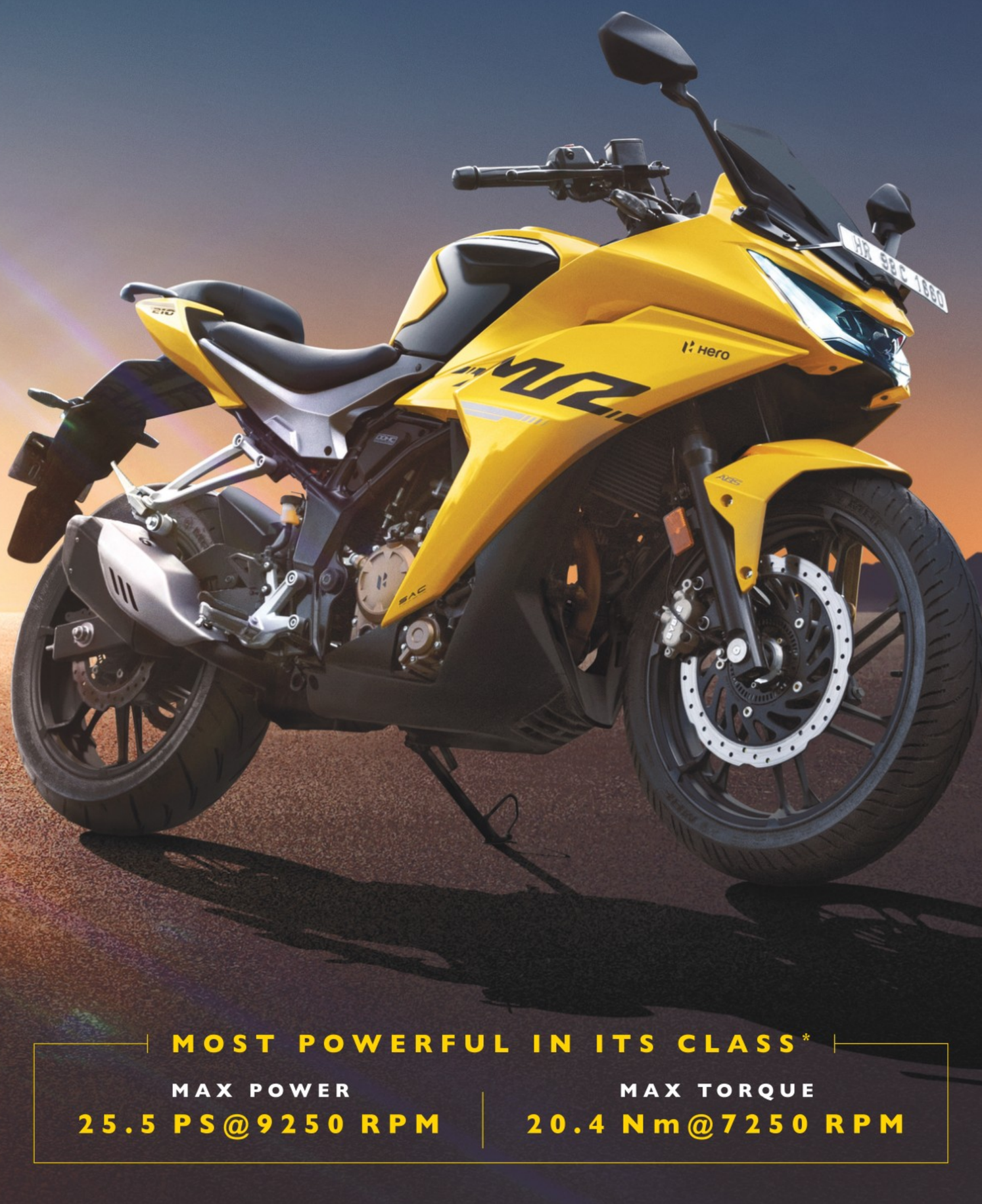


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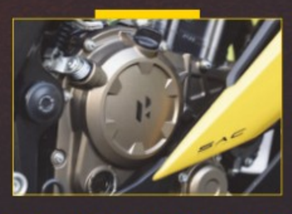
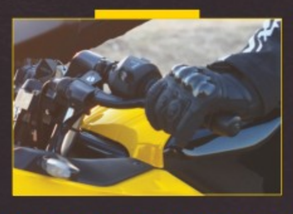

210cc 4V LIQUID-COOLED DOHC ENGINE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